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# Bush signals massive troop cuts in Europe

## Force level to be well below Vienna ceiling

From Peter Stothard and Martin Fletcher, Washington

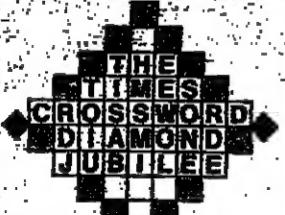
The United States is accelerating plans for sweeping cuts in super-power forces in Europe that go far beyond those being negotiated at talks with the Warsaw Pact in Vienna.

President Bush telephoned President Gorbachev yesterday morning and discussed the proposals he was expected to outline in his first State of the Union speech to the American nation last night.

The Vienna Conventional Forces in Europe talks, which could be completed this summer, would place a 275,000 ceiling on Soviet and American forces; but the President is now said to want "steep" cuts that could take the ceiling down to about 200,000.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was told earlier this week that the President intended to give a big push to conventional arms reductions in Europe, but she is still certain to be alarmed.

### INSIDE



Today marks the sixtieth anniversary of The Times Crossword — the most famous puzzle in the world. To mark the event we are publishing The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword, the biggest we have ever compiled, and as challenging as any published since February 1, 1930. The fourth set of clues to this prize puzzle appears on page 11

### Portfolio

#### PLATINUM

There was one winner of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition: see page 3. Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 31

Our Science & Technology section — pages 35 to 36 — reports on a bid by astronomers to prove one of Einstein's most baffling theories

### Heart op baby fights for life

The world's first heart operation on an unborn baby was performed to prevent the almost certain death of the child in the womb. Surgeons have explained.

The baby boy, Michael Vermillion, now aged four weeks, whose parents live near Colchester, Essex, is struggling for life on a ventilator at Guy's Hospital, London. Page 3

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## Gorbachov quashes resignation rumour

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

President Gorbachov yesterday dismissed out of hand an American report that he is about to resign as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Talking to journalists at a photo-call before meeting Senator Fernando Collor de Mello, President-elect of Brazil, Mr Gorbachov said he was preparing for important decisions on the Soviet Union's power structure.

The Soviet leader's emphatic denial came as evidence mounted that a top-level debate is in progress ahead of next week's Central Committee plenum about the nature and composition of both the Soviet party and state leadership.

Mr Gorbachov told the journalists that Tuesday evening's American Cable News

Continued on page 22, col 7

over donations of £23,100 to the fellowship. He now wants the cash back.

Detailing some of the occurrences while he was a follower, Mr Anderson told of how Pastor James Addison, of the fellowship, prayed and laid his hands on him speaking in a slow, hypnotic voice. He claimed that he was left in a two-day-long trance and acted "like an automaton", lacking free will.

He alleged that on that occasion he gave £9,000 to the fellowship and several days later, after a late-night prayer and indoctrination session, he handed over another £13,500 and later gave £600 to "someone who was blind". Mr Anderson, of Roslyn House, Echt, Grampian, alleges that he was put into a "trance" he handed

these donations were taken by the members of the fellowship from him by fraud and circumvention on the part of the members. He also is claiming that because he handed over money while in such a frame of mind, the fellowship was not entitled to keep the cash.

Lord McCuskey said Mr Anderson owned an hotel in Buckie which included a hall. The fellowship hired the hall on some occasions, but Mr Anderson agreed to sell the hall to the sect for £25,000 with entry date. Lord McCuskey said it was claimed that a month or two before the date of entry in 1985, representatives from the fellowship visited Mr Anderson and "pressed their religious practices on him". It was said that at the time he

suffered a manic depressive illness. Lord McCuskey said it was claimed that the sect preached that money was valueless and exhorted him to renounce all his possessions.

Lord McCuskey said there was sufficient in Mr Anderson's claims to warrant evidence being heard.

Last night, Pastor Addison — known locally as Pastor Jim — said from his home in Buckie: "It is very sad when you are being accused of something which is totally wrong and never took place."

He said that as a result of the action, the church's assets had been frozen. "But when you read the Bible, the Apostle Paul had much more difficulties than we have."

## Bible belt donor sues sect to get back £23,000

By Kerry Gill

An hotelier in the Moray Firth "Bible belt" told court yesterday how he became obsessed with the beliefs of a religious sect which talked him into giving up all his worldly possessions to achieve eternal salvation.

Saying he failed to receive redemption from the power of sin, Mr Ernest Anderson is now suing the sect for more than £23,000 at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Mr Anderson said that after becoming attached to the doctrines of the Beacon Fellowship, established in the fishing port of Buckie 11 years ago, he allowed his books to be burned when the sect told him they were "satanic literature". He claimed that after he was put into a "trance" he handed

## Five die as Kosovo protests are crushed



Masked night: Yugoslav militiamen using tear gas to crush a protest by 3,000 ethnic Albanians, including women and children, at Podejovo in Kosovo, the troubled region where five people died yesterday during demonstrations demanding free elections and a multi-party system. Serb ultimatum, page 7.

### Dirty tricks in Ulster

## Thatcher: I was misled

By Nicholas Wood and Michael Evans

The Government yesterday launched a second investigation into the Colin Wallace affair after the Prime Minister admitted she had been personally misled over the existence of a black propaganda operation by security agencies in Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

Mr Bush's proposals would

certainly win the support of Senator Sam Nunn, the key figure on defence issues on Capitol Hill. At the end of last month, he suggested US forces in Europe could be safely reduced to between 200,000 and 250,000.

The administration's acceleration of its plans to get American forces out of Europe — including the closure of 12 foreign bases announced on Monday — has caught European diplomats by surprise.

The White House has been driven by two rapidly-intensifying pressures: the need to win Congressional support for a 1991 budget which has been

They referred to the involvement of Mr Wallace in the secret campaign in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s and were uncovered by an MoD official as he searched through the archives for job appointment application records.

Previous searches in the archives had failed to uncover any reference to Mr Wallace's

Background. 2

Parliament. 10

claimed secondary role in "peyops" — psychological warfare operations because officials had only examined Mr Wallace's personal file which charted his career as an Army information officer in Ulster from 1968 to 1975 when he was sacked for leaking a restricted document to a

journalist.

As Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, prepares to make a Commons statement today, the background of how officials discovered the two documents relating to the Clockwork Orange propaganda operation emerged.

Mr Wallace has claimed that he was victimized because he exposed dirty tricks and black propaganda campaigns in Ulster when security forces were competing for supremacy.

When questions were raised in the Commons, ministers were briefed by officials to answer on the basis of the limited trawl through the records. The Prime Minister was one of those caught out by the failure to make wider searches.

However it is understood that officials at the MoD decided to carry out a wider investigation.

The second document recorded an oral description given to Mr Wallace of a covert role he would also be expected to play. It was this document which referred to Clockwork Orange.

Mr Wallace has claimed that he was victimized because he exposed dirty tricks and black propaganda campaigns in Ulster when security forces were competing for supremacy.

Passengers and crew not engaged in firefighting were issued with life jackets and

stranded at lifeboot stations.

The fire brigade at Holyhead said: "Conditions were

not very pleasant. It was gale-force, reaching force nine in gusts and the ferry was going

up and down like a yo-yo."

The coastguard at Holyhead said: "The weather was pushing the ship to the south-west away from the land, so there was no immediate danger of running aground."

## Firemen fly in to tackle ferry blaze

By Paul Wilkinson

Fire crews were flown to a ferry in the Irish Sea yesterday after an engine room blaze left it drifting without power in 20ft waves and gale-force winds.

Three RAF helicopters landed 14 fire fighters and equipment on the pitching deck of the 8,000-tonne Sealink ferry, St Columba.

Crew abandoned the port engine room as smoke billowed through the ship and crowded public areas.

Passengers and crew not engaged in firefighting were issued with life jackets and stranded at lifeboot stations.

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## Background to revelations over Operation Clockwork Orange

## Allegations reopen the case of Wilson 'smear campaign'

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

The allegations made by Mr Colin Wallace of a "dirty tricks" campaign waged by the security services during 1974 and 1975 against Mr Harold Wilson and other leading politicians began to surface in the left-wing press in 1986, and overlap, in part at least, with the claims of Mr Peter Wright in *Spycatcher*.

Mr Wallace has written: "Information supplied by the CIA and the security services (MI5) was used to justify a number of in-depth investigations into Harold Wilson's activities and those of other Labour MPs/supporters to find out if sufficient 'hard evidence' could be gathered to wreck the Labour Party's chances of gaining power..."

"When the investigations failed to uncover anything of value, elements within the security service, supported by others in Whitehall, including former members of the Intelligence and Security Services, embarked upon a disinformation campaign to achieve the same objective."

It was at this point that Wallace claims that "Clockwork Orange", a cover operation aimed at destabilizing extremist groups in which he

was involved, was taken over for the purpose of smearing the Labour Party. It is this exercise to which Mr Wallace claims, as an Army information officer serving in Northern Ireland, he was asked to contribute.

Mr Wallace states that smear stories against prominent politicians were then distributed through a number of news agencies, many of them based in the United States, including the Information Research Department, North Atlantic News Agency, the Transworld News Forum, World Features and Previews.

Lord Wilson: Alleged target of dirty tricks campaign.

Information. The story has been partly corroborated by Dr Edward von Rothkirk of Transworld, who told the authors Barry Penrose and Roger Courter that in 1975 he was offered "derogatory material" on 11 MPs - a Conservative, two Liberals and eight Labour - including Mr Harold Wilson.

Mr von Rothkirk became suspicious because money was never requested for the material. "They were far more interested in knowing that their material might go out on the international wire services".

The main smear seems to have surrounded the former Prime Minister, Mr Wilson (now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx).

Mr Wallace has listed 10 smears he claims he was asked to spread.

Several of the smears concerned Mrs Marcia Williams, a Wilson aide. Other smears said that Mr Wilson had refused to allow MI5 to carry out positive vetting of some members of his staff because it would have revealed them to be Communist agents; that a KGB cell was operating inside 10 Downing Street; that Mr

Wilson himself was KGB-controlled; that Hugh Gaitskell was influenced by the KGB to bring Mr Wilson to power; that Mr Wilson's KGB controller was Dick Vygauskas, an acquaintance of Lord Kagan; that senior Labour politicians were involved in income tax fraud; that more than 30 Labour MPs were active Communists; and that Mr Edward Short, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, had a secret bank account in Switzerland.

A number of those are also duplicated in the claims of Mr Peter Wright.

Mr Wallace has also provided a list of MPs he says were on a list of targets he was given for "psy-ops" (psychological operations). Those include Dame Judith Hart, Mr Kevin McNamara and Mr Stan Thorpe.

Parliament, page 10

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## WAKE UP TO THE NEW AGE OF

**BRITISH  
COAL**

## Polaris submarines face reactor checks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A team of "troubleshooters" was yesterday checking the Resolution Class Polaris ballistic missile submarines after the discovery of a hairline crack in the primary cooling system of one of the Royal Navy's oldest nuclear-powered boats.

Since the fault was found on HMS Waspire, a Valiant Class submarine, during a refit, the overriding concern has been to clear the Polaris boats because of the need to maintain a non-stop patrol cycle.

With one submarine in refit and one out on patrol, the team of engineers went to Faslane on the Clyde, home of the Polaris boats, to check the other two submarines, one of which is "working up" to take

over patrol duties. It was emphasized that although all four Polaris submarines would have to be checked, that would not affect the Royal Navy's guarantee of having at least one Polaris boat on patrol for 365 days of the year. The submarine now on patrol would be checked when it returned to Faslane.

It was believed that the fault on Waspire, the second oldest in the fleet of 20 nuclear-powered submarines, was probably age-related.

Report: The Times overseas  
Avalon 800-327-3910, 800-327-3911, 800-327-3912, 800-327-3913, 800-327-3914, 800-327-3915, 800-327-3916, 800-327-3917, 800-327-3918, 800-327-3919, 800-327-3920, 800-327-3921, 800-327-3922, 800-327-3923, 800-327-3924, 800-327-3925, 800-327-3926, 800-327-3927, 800-327-3928, 800-327-3929, 800-327-3930, 800-327-3931, 800-327-3932, 800-327-3933, 800-327-3934, 800-327-3935, 800-327-3936, 800-327-3937, 800-327-3938, 800-327-3939, 800-327-3940, 800-327-3941, 800-327-3942, 800-327-3943, 800-327-3944, 800-327-3945, 800-327-3946, 800-327-3947, 800-327-3948, 800-327-3949, 800-327-3950, 800-327-3951, 800-327-3952, 800-327-3953, 800-327-3954, 800-327-3955, 800-327-3956, 800-327-3957, 800-327-3958, 800-327-3959, 800-327-3960, 800-327-3961, 800-327-3962, 800-327-3963, 800-327-3964, 800-327-3965, 800-327-3966, 800-327-3967, 800-327-3968, 800-327-3969, 800-327-3970, 800-327-3971, 800-327-3972, 800-327-3973, 800-327-3974, 800-327-3975, 800-327-3976, 800-327-3977, 800-327-3978, 800-327-3979, 800-327-3980, 800-327-3981, 800-327-3982, 800-327-3983, 800-327-3984, 800-327-3985, 800-327-3986, 800-327-3987, 800-327-3988, 800-327-3989, 800-327-3990, 800-327-3991, 800-327-3992, 800-327-3993, 800-327-3994, 800-327-3995, 800-327-3996, 800-327-3997, 800-327-3998, 800-327-3999, 800-327-4000, 800-327-4001, 800-327-4002, 800-327-4003, 800-327-4004, 800-327-4005, 800-327-4006, 800-327-4007, 800-327-4008, 800-327-4009, 800-327-4010, 800-327-4011, 800-327-4012, 800-327-4013, 800-327-4014, 800-327-4015, 800-327-4016, 800-327-4017, 800-327-4018, 800-327-4019, 800-327-4020, 800-327-4021, 800-327-4022, 800-327-4023, 800-327-4024, 800-327-4025, 800-327-4026, 800-327-4027, 800-327-4028, 800-327-4029, 800-327-4030, 800-327-4031, 800-327-4032, 800-327-4033, 800-327-4034, 800-327-4035, 800-327-4036, 800-327-4037, 800-327-4038, 800-327-4039, 800-327-4040, 800-327-4041, 800-327-4042, 800-327-4043, 800-327-4044, 800-327-4045, 800-327-4046, 800-327-4047, 800-327-4048, 800-327-4049, 800-327-4050, 800-327-4051, 800-327-4052, 800-327-4053, 800-327-4054, 800-327-4055, 800-327-4056, 800-327-4057, 800-327-4058, 800-327-4059, 800-327-4060, 800-327-4061, 800-327-4062, 800-327-4063, 800-327-4064, 800-327-4065, 800-327-4066, 800-327-4067, 800-327-4068, 800-327-4069, 800-327-4070, 800-327-4071, 800-327-4072, 800-327-4073, 800-327-4074, 800-327-4075, 800-327-4076, 800-327-4077, 800-327-4078, 800-327-4079, 800-327-4080, 800-327-4081, 800-327-4082, 800-327-4083, 800-327-4084, 800-327-4085, 800-327-4086, 800-327-4087, 800-327-4088, 800-327-4089, 800-327-4090, 800-327-4091, 800-327-4092, 800-327-4093, 800-327-4094, 800-327-4095, 800-327-4096, 800-327-4097, 800-327-4098, 800-327-4099, 800-327-4100, 800-327-4101, 800-327-4102, 800-327-4103, 800-327-4104, 800-327-4105, 800-327-4106, 800-327-4107, 800-327-4108, 800-327-4109, 800-327-4110, 800-327-4111, 800-327-4112, 800-327-4113, 800-327-4114, 800-327-4115, 800-327-4116, 800-327-4117, 800-327-4118, 800-327-4119, 800-327-4120, 800-327-4121, 800-327-4122, 800-327-4123, 800-327-4124, 800-327-4125, 800-327-4126, 800-327-4127, 800-327-4128, 800-327-4129, 800-327-4130, 800-327-4131, 800-327-4132, 800-327-4133, 800-327-4134, 800-327-4135, 800-327-4136, 800-327-4137, 800-327-4138, 800-327-4139, 800-327-4140, 800-327-4141, 800-327-4142, 800-327-4143, 800-327-4144, 800-327-4145, 800-327-4146, 800-327-4147, 800-327-4148, 800-327-4149, 800-327-4150, 800-327-4151, 800-327-4152, 800-327-4153, 800-327-4154, 800-327-4155, 800-327-4156, 800-327-4157, 800-327-4158, 800-327-4159, 800-327-4160, 800-327-4161, 800-327-4162, 800-327-4163, 800-327-4164, 800-327-4165, 800-327-4166, 800-327-4167, 800-327-4168, 800-327-4169, 800-327-4170, 800-327-4171, 800-327-4172, 800-327-4173, 800-327-4174, 800-327-4175, 800-327-4176, 800-327-4177, 800-327-4178, 800-327-4179, 800-327-4180, 800-327-4181, 800-327-4182, 800-327-4183, 800-327-4184, 800-327-4185, 800-327-4186, 800-327-4187, 800-327-4188, 800-327-4189, 800-327-4190, 800-327-4191, 800-327-4192, 800-327-4193, 800-327-4194, 800-327-4195, 800-327-4196, 800-327-4197, 800-327-4198, 800-327-4199, 800-327-4200, 800-327-4201, 800-327-4202, 800-327-4203, 800-327-4204, 800-327-4205, 800-327-4206, 800-327-4207, 800-327-4208, 800-327-4209, 800-327-4210, 800-327-4211, 800-327-4212, 800-327-4213, 800-327-4214, 800-327-4215, 800-327-4216, 800-327-4217, 800-327-4218, 800-327-4219, 800-327-4220, 800-327-4221, 800-327-4222, 800-327-4223, 800-327-4224, 800-327-4225, 800-327-4226, 800-327-4227, 800-327-4228, 800-327-4229, 800-327-4230, 800-327-4231, 800-327-4232, 800-327-4233, 800-327-4234, 800-327-4235, 800-327-4236, 800-327-4237, 800-327-4238, 800-327-4239, 800-327-4240, 800-327-4241, 800-327-4242, 800-327-4243, 800-327-4244, 800-327-4245, 800-327-4246, 800-327-4247, 800-327-4248, 800-327-4249, 800-327-4250, 800-327-4251, 800-327-4252, 800-327-4253, 800-327-4254, 800-327-4255, 800-327-4256, 800-327-4257, 800-327-4258, 800-327-4259, 800-327-4260, 800-327-4261, 800-327-4262, 800-327-4263

# Private hospitals charge £7 a plaster and £2 an aspirin

A private hospital patient was charged £168 for a cottonwool swab, another £7 for a plaster, and a third £68 for an injection costing less than £4, a report disclosed yesterday.

The report was the result of a survey by Western Provident Association (WPA), which said some hospitals have been adding up to 2,500 per cent to bills in "invisible charges", mainly for drugs and medical supplies.

The medical director of the British United Provident Association (Bupa), the country's largest private health-care organization, agrees that private hospitals "have an excessively high mark-up" for drugs and dressings. Yet it was a Bupa hospital that supplied the £168 swab.

The survey discovered that other independent hospitals charged almost £7 for disposable razors valued at 7p; £2 for an aspirin, and £4 for a 25p pair of surgeon's gloves. Two patients were overcharged £800 for their rooms.

Mr Julian Stainton, managing director of WPA, a Bristol-based medical insurance company with half a million subscribers, said: "There is a fantastic disparity between charges. Private hospitals can charge whatever they want; we think that they should be obliged to display a tariff."

Mr Stainton believes high prices are being charged for "invisibles" to keep down room charges. WPA cited Bupa figures showing that while the price of a room was

By David Sepstid

nearly two and a half times what it was in 1980, there had been a ninefold increase in the cost of "invisibles".

Mr Stainton said he had queried the £168 charge for an item listed simply as "swab - any size" on a bill from the Bupa hospital at Roundhay Hall, Leeds; but could not establish whether it was for one swab or more. On the same £50,000 bill for a heart patient, swabs were also charged at £42 and £1.21. Bupa was unable to explain the disparity, but said "every now and again errors do occur".

AMI, an American-owned group that recorded a £20 million profit last year, was charging £1 for each suture at one London hospital and £6.47 at another, the survey - commissioned in the wake of subscribers' complaints about rising premiums - said.

"No reason is ever given for these discrepancies," Mr Stainton said. He added that at least 700 hospital invoices a day needed investigation because of what appeared to be blatant overcharging.

The Independent Hospitals' Association, however, said that while the WPA's examples were "obviously unjustified and wrong", it considered them isolated and misleading. Mr Tony Byrne, chief executive, said: "Organizations such as Bupa and PPP negotiate their prices directly with independent hospitals, while WPA does not. It is possible that one or two may have

A model prepared by the Institute of Actuaries suggests that the cost of health care, now about £20 billion, would rise to £30 billion in 2028 for the same level of services at constant prices.

## Legal fight on Clarke reforms

By Jill Sherman  
Social Services Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was accused in the High Court yesterday of "jumping the gun" in spending millions of pounds of public money on health service reforms before legislation had been introduced.

A group of leading hospital consultants led by Professor Harry Keen of Guy's Hospital, is seeking a court declaration that preparatory work for setting up National Health Service trusts is unlawful. The doctors are also seeking a court order to prevent further preparation going ahead.

Professor Keen said yesterday that he had the backing of 3,000 consultants who have pledged more than £250,000 to fund the legal action.

Already, 79 institutions including Guy's Hospital, are preparing applications to set up trusts. The Government has spent £85 million in the current financial year and plans to spend a further £300 million from April to introduce key changes, such as self-governing hospitals. However, the National Health Service and Community Care Bill is unlikely to receive Royal Assent before July, nine months before the April 1991 date set for its introduction.

Mr James Goudie QC, appearing for Professor Keen, told the court that the "first wave" of self-governing hospitals would virtually be created by the time the Bill became law. "The constitutional principle - legislation first, implementation second - will be turned on its head."

The minister and the health authorities were "seriously misdirected" in preparing applications for a new status for which no legislative recognition yet existed, he said. The hearing continues today.

## Judgement reserved in wrong-horse case

A High Court judge in London yesterday reserved judgement in the case of Fondu, the 26,000-guinea racehorse which never won a race.

The horse's owners, Mr Thomas Naughton and Mr Vincent Kilkenny, had high hopes when they bought the colt at Newmarket in 1981. However, they later discovered a mix-up at a stud farm had caused them to buy the wrong animal, whose value fell to only £1,500.

By that time Fondu had finished as an also-ran in all his six races.

Mr Naughton and Mr Kilkenny are suing for damages after the High Court ruled they were entitled to compensation.

Mr Adrian Maxwell, the men's former trainer, told the court yesterday how he was attracted by a foal out of the mare Habanera, sired by Habitat - both successful racers - and had recommended the purchase. He said the mare

## Door opens to more operations on unborn

By Thomson Prentice  
Science Correspondent

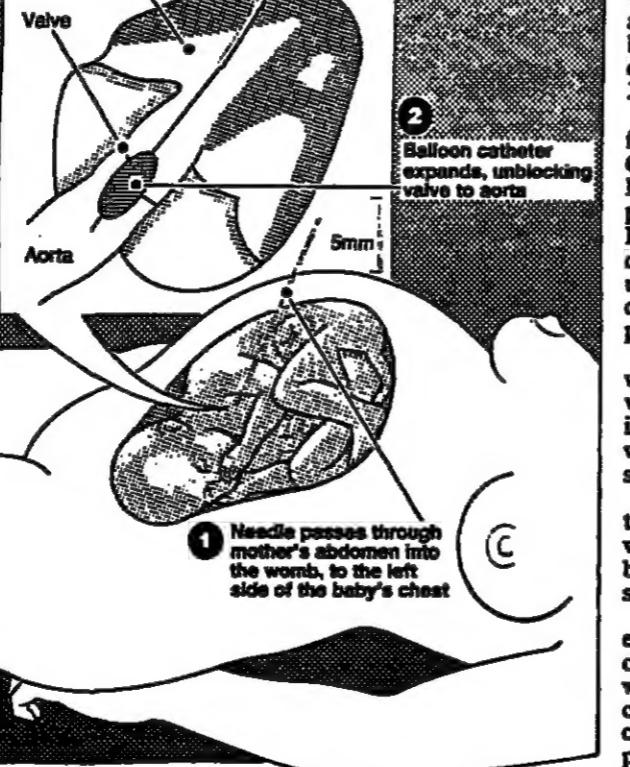
Surgeons who performed the world's first heart operation on an unborn baby said yesterday that they did so to prevent the almost certain death of the child in the womb.

The baby boy, Michele Vermilio, now aged four weeks, whose parents live near Colchester, Essex, is struggling on life in a ventilator at Guy's Hospital, south-east London. His condition is so serious that the doctors were reluctant to claim that the procedure was a success.

However, they acknowledged that their work may open the way to more such operations on the unborn, some of which might be attempted in early pregnancy.

The baby's father, Mr Bernard Vermilio, a garage owner and racing driver, said he had nothing but praise for the hospital team. "There was never any question of ethics. We wanted to save the baby's life, that's all."

The surgeons fed a tiny balloon, attached to an extremely fine, hollow needle through the mother's abdomen, into the womb and into the baby's heart, and then inflated it to expand an abnormally narrow valve which



## Commons secretaries seek pay rises up to 100%

By Tim Jones  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

House of Commons secretaries are demanding salary increases of up to 100 per cent to help them to cope with the cost of living in London and the strain of working in conditions which, they say, would be condemned in industry.

Launching their campaign, the Secretaries and Assistants Council say they believe their salaries should not be left to the generosity of the MPs who employ them. A confidential

survey of 380 secretaries showed pay scales varying from £7,000 to £22,500.

They claim that the present system is open to abuse and could enable some MPs to use part of their £25,000 secretarial and office parliamentary allowance to boost their own £26,701 salaries by paying non-working members of their families.

The survey found 17 per cent earn less than £10,000 a year, nearly 20 per cent from £10,000 to £12,000, 28 per cent up to £14,000, 24 per cent up to £16,000 and 11 per cent more than £16,000, although most of the highest paid worked for more than one MP.

Miss Victoria Leach, the council's chairwoman, who works as a personal assistant to Mrs Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, said the pay of parliamentary secretaries was meant to be linked to senior secretaries in the Civil Service earning £15,953 a year. "At present we have a complete lack of employment rights and we need a structure to ensure fair pay," she said.

• The £7 billion a year advertising industry is riddled with sexism and many agencies are unwillingly breaking sex discrimination laws, according to *Women in Advertising*, prepared for the Institute by Marilyn Baxter of Saatchi and Saatchi.

of Practitioners in Advertising (Rich-ard Evans writes).

Women executives are encouraged to dress provocatively for customers, some have been taken off accounts after refusing sexual advances by clients and others regularly face more subtle forms of discrimination, prejudice and chauvinism, the report said. But chief executives of major advertising agencies genuinely believe their companies are meritocratic and fair to women employees, according to *Women in Advertising*, prepared for the Institute by Marilyn Baxter of Saatchi and Saatchi.

Sir William Fraser, principal of Glasgow University, said he looked forward to an early decision from the Universities Funding Council (UFC). "I would also like to see an explanation as to why vet students should be singled out for special fee-surcharges," he said.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, welcomed the report's findings. Significantly he said that except in unusual circumstances the Government would no longer take

*Review of Veterinary Manpower and Education* (MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, £5).

## Tribute to 'father of the lions'

CHRIS HARRIS



Miss Virginia McKenna and her husband Mr Bill Travers with a drawing of George Adamson, the conservationist known as "father of the lions", who was murdered by poachers in Kenya last

August. They hope to produce a limited edition of 250 prints of the work by Gary Hodges. The proceeds will go to a fund for the preservation of the Kora national park in Kenya which was founded by Mr Adamson.

Adamson, Miss McKenna, who starred as Mr Adamson's wife Joy in the film *Born Free*, was among the speakers at a memorial service for Mr Adamson in London yesterday.

## Portfolio

### Winner to buy new car

The winner of today's Portfolio Platinum, Mrs Mabel Elizabeth Rose, will spend her £2,000 prize money on a new car.

"My husband is partly disabled, so it would be very useful to have a car with power steering," Mrs Rose, aged 62, of Cowling near Keighley, West Yorkshire, said. "We often go out for the day in the Yorkshire Dales and have holidays in Scotland."

Mrs Rose and her husband Felix, who are both retired school teachers, have been entering the competition since it started.

### Charities gain from art award

The best of student art is to benefit two charities in a £25,000 award scheme launched at the Royal College of Art yesterday (Simon Tait writes).

The Contemporary View Awards for 1990, an exhibition of 180 of the best pieces, will be mounted at the RCA next November, judged by a panel of art critics, scholars and artists.

The works will then be auctioned for up to £200,000 in aid of the British Teenage Cancer Appeal and the Royal College of Art Student Fund by Christie's, donating the services.

The winner will receive £15,000, with £10,000 going to the winning college.

## Closure threat

### Need for vets may save two schools

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Plans to close Glasgow and Cambridge veterinary schools are certain to be shelved after the publication of a report of a government investigation which says that the need for vets is substantially greater than earlier estimates.

The latest report, by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, says that rather than restrict the number of vets being trained in Britain to 335, universities should produce a core of at least 400.

The six veterinary schools - Cambridge, Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh and the Royal Veterinary College - should impose an annual fee-surcharge of £500 for each student if they want to recruit more than 400 undergraduates a year between them, the report said.

If a school had a core intake of 65 students it could expand its admissions by 5 if it charged all students £500 a year each. Funds for this surcharge could come from special government loans or sponsorship from veterinary practices and pharmaceutical companies.

Sir William Fraser, principal of Glasgow University, said he looked forward to an early decision from the Universities Funding Council (UFC).

"I would also like to see an explanation as to why vet students should be singled out for special fee-surcharges," he said.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, welcomed the report's findings. Significantly he said that except in unusual circumstances the Government would no longer take

part in manpower reviews. That means that when the UFC considers the Page report it will be hard to insist that the two veterinary schools close, as recommended last year by the Riley report into veterinary education.

Professor Lawson Soulsby, head of the Cambridge veterinary school, said that although admissions were restricted to no more than 50 students a year the school could admit 65 with no additional expenditure.

"Since we need more vets not fewer the logical vets would be to leave the six schools in place rather than spend money on closing down two and expanding the other four," he said.

Although the number of veterinary students admitted

### • Vet students should be charged £500 each per year

to universities is almost certain to increase, Professor Soulsby said it would be no easier for sixth formers to get in.

The review of veterinary manpower and education, commissioned by the Department of Education and Science and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, contains projections of the supply and demand of veterinary manpower to the end of the century, and finds it likely that there will be a significant shortfall in the number Britain needs. In the short term increased numbers of qualified overseas vets could help to fill the gap.

*Review of Veterinary Manpower and Education* (MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP, £5).

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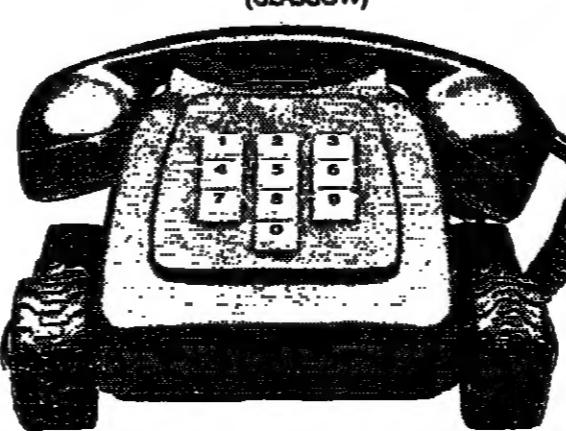
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was more important than the stallion in breeding racehorses.

However, Fondu had assumed the wrong identity because of a mix-up at the Airlie Stud in Airlie, Lanark, Co Dublin.

As a result, the colt was wrongly described at Tattersalls' Premier Yearling Sales in Newmarket on September 30, 1981.

He turned out to be a colt out of an unregistered mare, Moon Min, sired by an unregistered stallion, First Landing.

Mr Naughton of Pickwick Place, Harrow-on-the-Hill, north-west London, and Mr Kilkenny of Manor House, Bletchley, Oxford, are suing Mr Gay O'Callaghan, who sold the colt.

Both Mr O'Callaghan of Old Town House, Shamballymore, Mallow, Co Cork, and the Airlie Stud dispute how much compensation is owed.

# Owen urges withdrawal of American forces from Germany

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen called on Nato yesterday to announce that American forces will be withdrawn from a united Germany while remaining at a reduced level elsewhere in Europe.

Dr Owen, the Social Democrat leader, predicted that, although the constitutional process would take longer, East and West Germany would be united by the end of the year because of economic realities and the will of the people.

He said the West should encourage a united Germany either to be in Nato or the Western European Union and not to accept neutrality as the price for union.

To that end, Nato should redefine the United States' role and forestall potential Soviet resentment by announcing that were Germany to be united by the decision of its citizens, Nato would not seek to deploy forces from countries outside Europe on German soil.

That would not be a green light for Britain, Belgium and The Netherlands to withdraw their forces, although some reductions could make sense.

Dr Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary, was speaking to the Royal United Institute for Defence Studies on a political and strategic perspective of Western Europe's security situation in the wake of changes in the Warsaw Pact, which he admitted ran counter to the

Delors vision of a federal Europe. In remarks that increased the distance between Dr Owen and the Liberal Democrats, and took him closer to the Conservative position, he said a diverse and pluralist Europe that worked for progressive union while respecting nationhood would make a lasting contribution to international peace.

The Government was driving Britain further apart from its partners, he said.

Dr Owen added that a decision not to deploy American or Canadian forces on German soil should be a voluntary one taken by Nato alone as a contribution to the stable, progressive development of Europe. He predicted that within five years the US military presence in Europe

would be reduced by two thirds to 100,000 personnel, but it was strongly in Europe's interest that it remained.

It had always been a Soviet objective to have a neutral Germany and no American forces in Europe. Western Europe could never concede to the Soviets that the stationing of Soviet forces in central Europe was equivalent to American forces in Western Europe.

"We are entitled in Western Europe to bridge the Atlantic if we so wish. There is no equivalent ocean dividing the USSR from the rest of Europe," he said.

However, he said it would be understandably resisted by the Soviet Union if a united Germany were to ask for the stationing of American troops on its

territory while it was withdrawing its forces at the request of fellow Warsaw Pact members.

He said there was no strategic logic that said that a united Germany without America should also be compelled from the Nato or WEU nuclear deterrence strategy.

As long as the Soviets remained a nuclear power, there was every argument for France and Britain to retain nuclear weapons. A united Germany in Nato would rely on nuclear and conventional deterrence. As a WEU member, it would be able to ask France and Britain to deploy nuclear-carrying aircraft from German airfields. Dr Owen also suggested that Britain put on hold the development of

the next generation of battle tank and anti-tank systems. He said that Nato would have to look more ruthlessly at specialization between member states.

Dr Owen said that while his perspectives ran counter to the Delors vision, they would contribute to deeper European unity. Nato had shown that on national security an integrated command structure could be developed while maintaining a sense of nationhood.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday of "clinging to the apron strings of the Atlantic relationship and missing the opportunities of the new Europe".

Leading article, page 13

## Start of new service lowered prosecution standards, Bar says

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The standard of prosecutions has deteriorated markedly since the start of the Crown Prosecution Service three years ago, the Criminal Bar Association said yesterday.

In evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, which is investigating the service, the association said that a poll of its members in the South-east, particularly London, found that the "system is significantly less efficient than it was".

In a separate submission, however, the Law Society praises the achievements of the service although it does criticize some aspects. It says the CPS' own core of prosecutors is providing "an excellent level of representation in court".

Nevertheless, the Criminal Bar Association says that it is barristers who "are at the sharp end of presenting the prosecution case in court".

They "are in the best position to know what omissions and errors they succeed in disguising (in addition to those which surface) and how narrowly real disasters are sometimes avoided".

The opinions of barristers surveyed are "most disturbing not merely in their content but in the extent to which they are so widely held", the association says.

"Of the options given, all bar a small fraction settled for 'worse than before 1985'. The fraction settled for 'no different'".

Barristers welcomed the thinking behind the Crown Prosecution Service, however, and did say that a reputation

for greater independence from the police was growing.

Even so, the problems of the service were still extensive. Nearly 95 per cent of barristers polled answered unfavourably as to whether the standard of preparation of cases had fallen and identified a list of problems: failure to spot evidential problems; "embarrassing" applications for adjournments; failure to act on counsel's written advice; poor drafting of indictments.

It was a commonly held view, the association says, that Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff were so inexperienced that real problems were inevitable.

It was also commonly held that deterioration in prosecuting standards "is most noticeable in the largest bracket of prosecutions — what might loosely be called the 'lower end'".

There was a belief, the association says, that a less gloomy view would have come from outside London about the CPS in the regions.

The barristers also took the view that there had been a change in the way their role was regarded, with an "overwhelming view" that counsel was no longer free to exercise his discretion over the conduct of the case.

The most prevalent problems included resistance to counsel's view of the merits of a particular case in terms of a "local policy" adopted in relation to some kind of offence or method of disposal.

In separate evidence, the criminal law committee of the

Law Society says that the general view is that the CPS's own core of experienced prosecutors was providing "an excellent level of representation at court".

There was evidence that certain tribunals "remain hostile in principle to the introduction of the CPS", it says.

"Such unjustified intolerance should not reflect upon the steadily improving reputation of crown prosecutors throughout the country."

The Law Society says, however, that there are problems over the provision by police of adequate papers on time for cases to be presented at court.

Despite improvements, there were still pockets of inefficiency where there was inadequate advance information or communiqué papers not served on time.

A stipendiary magistrate has criticized both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Derrick Fairclough, stipendiary magistrate for Manchester and a Recorder at Liverpool Crown Court, said yesterday: "Between them the police and CPS cannot ensure that antecedents are updated as a matter of routine."

In the new edition of the CPS Journal, Mr Fairclough says: "Hurried telephone inquiries to police headquarters in 1987, is to sue the Ministry of Defence after contracting leukaemia."

Mr Fairclough says he was promised up-to-date antecedents when a new computer was introduced at Manchester, but records were still missing from antecedents.

In separate evidence, the

recent examples included:

• A Second World War veteran who received severe bruising after being thrown from his wheelchair by a burglar who held a cushion over his face in an apparent attempt to smother him (£500 compensation);

• Six women social club workers held hostage at knifepoint during an armed robbery (£650 each);

• Young man slashed across the face with a broken glass in an unprovoked attack in a nightspot (£650).

She added: "Compensation is an important way of acknowledging that such crime is not acceptable. The gesture is as important as the value of the money involved."

The charity said some of the smallest payouts involved surprisingly vicious incidents.

The change also encouraged victims to submit inflated claims. "It's disgraceful. In the name of efficiency the Government has squeezed out a large number of potential claimants."

He added: "This comes on top of changes introduced a few years ago which mean that victims who are unemployed have their benefits cut if they get compensation."

The scheme's other changes, described as a "streamlining" by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, will allow the board's junior staff to deal with claims which are obviously ineligible and will restrict the number of cases referred to oral hearings.

Mr Steerman, a Labour home affairs spokesman, said the Government should have cut the payment threshold not increased it.

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Mr Steerman: "Change will encourage inflated claims."

## Compensation changes will rule out 9,000 crime victims

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

At least 9,000 victims of such crimes as mugging or aggravated burglary will be deprived of compensation this year because of a "streamlining" of the government-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, it emerged yesterday.

Under the revised scheme, due to come into effect today, the minimum limit for compensation will be raised from £550 to £750. Other changes, though, will permit claims from victims previously excluded, such as train drivers who suffer shock after railway suicides and unmarried people whose partners are killed in violent crime.

The Home Office, which announced the changes in December, believes the moves will help to solve chronic delays in processing claims and concentrate resources on the most deserving cases. Some 96,000 cases are outstanding, a backlog of over two years' work.

The charity Victim Support, which strongly opposes the increase in the lower limit, said about one in three of those now eligible for compensation will be excluded.

That was confirmed by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the scheme's administrator, which said that 37 per cent of the 38,830

payouts made in 1988-89 were under £800.

Miss Helen Reeves, the charity's director, said restricting eligibility to the scheme would undermine public confidence in it and do nothing to improve efficiency.

The move, she added, was particularly regrettable as many of the "lower limit" claims related to thefts, street robberies and muggings — crimes which were often not cleared up and caused widespread public fear and anger.

She added: "Compensation is an important way of acknowledging that such crime is not acceptable. The gesture is as important as the value of the money involved."

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refineries and chemical works. "By defining contaminated land narrowly and solely in relation to end-use, the Department of the Environment may be underestimating a genuine environmental problem and misdirecting effort and resources."

The report adds: "There is land in the UK which is contaminated and a threat to health and the environment, both on site and in the surrounding area. The primary focus of central and local government activity must be upon land which is a hazard to health or the environment."

The MPs say Britain has been spared some of the worst effects of uncontrolled dumping. But there should be no complacency over the management of toxic waste.

They say the Department holds little information about polluted land,

and are concerned about the adequacy of its estimates. Their report also backs up other warnings about the shortage of pollution inspectors.

Among the recommendations are a law to prevent companies polluting the soil, and to force owners to disclose information about contamination of land when they sell it; local registers of contaminated sites; and new powers for the National Rivers Authority to scrutinize planning applications for polluted sites.

• Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the select committee on the environment, yesterday called for an end to the dispute over whether to build a long sea outfall at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, to combat sewage problems on Britain's most polluted coastline (Mark Souter writes).

Lancashire County Council and the

## Veteran teddy bears await a good home

PETER TREVOR



Some of the 75 elderly teddy bears to be auctioned at Christie's, London, today, with Miss Philippa Sparier, Christie's teddy specialist.

### MoD to be sued over bomb test

By Kerry Gill

A former Royal Air Force electrician, who served on Christmas Island during amateur tests in 1957, is to sue the Ministry of Defence after contracting leukaemia.

Mr John Hall, aged 51, who spent four months on the Pacific island, believes his recently diagnosed condition is a direct result of being exposed to radiation during the tests.

His case is to be handled by Mr Mark Mildred, the lawyer involved in legal proceedings over the Zeebrugge and King's Cross disasters. The costs will be met by the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association.

Details of Mr Hall's action

and the association's struggle to get compensation for victims are to be disclosed at a press conference in the House of Commons today.

The association has campaigned to make the Government recognize that its members were affected by exposure to radiation during nuclear tests in the late 1950s.

After Brown's death in the 1920s, a trunk of highland dress was sent from Balmoral Castle to Edinburgh, with instructions that it should be disposed of, but not by auction.

Christie's auctioned a selection of British decorative arts from the 1980s.

Top price was £6,050 for a glass and forged iron console table by Danny Laine. An elegant welded steel "spine" chair by Andre de Bruel, and costing £2,200, she is a sculpture by Saskia de Boer, and a highlight at the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery stand.

Other attractions at the fair, which brings together the work of more than 200 artists, include bold landscape paintings by David Macfarlane, at £400 to £1,200, and large abstracts by Gail Dickerson, the young Royal College of Art graduate who has been chosen as the "Young Artist in Focus".

After watching the sale of over 300 teddy bears, dolls and toys, their representative,

the magnificently bearded Dr Gordon Reall of Italian, took bidding to £3,000 above the upper estimate.

The most intriguing garment was Mr Brown's underpants, equipped with special back-flap and front fly.

Dr Treadwell said: "Queen Victoria insisted that anyone who worked for her and wore a kilt should wear underpants. She was very particular because it can be very embarrassing when someone wearing a kilt sits down."

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# NUT faces demand for debate on homosexual rights

By David Tyler, Education Editor

A one-day conference for lesbian and homosexual teachers has been demanded by left-wing members of Britain's largest classroom union. The call is likely to embarrass leaders of the National Union of Teachers anxious to present a more moderate image.

The union's branch in Islington, north London, has put down a motion for the annual conference in Bournemouth at Easter calling on the national executive to endorse the rights of lesbians and homosexuals by the "positive representation of homosexuality".

In an attack on heterosexuals, the branch calls on the union to train members not to adopt "heterosexism" which discriminates against homosexuals. The union is asked to support homosexual teachers and to hold an "annual one-day conference exclusively on lesbian and gay issues in education".

A motion from central Nottinghamshire, Oxford, Hillingdon and Leeds says that the self-management of schools could result in the victimization of women, homosexual, black and disabled teachers who

are "victimized by practising anti-racist education."

Branches are being asked to vote on which of the hundreds of motions that have been tabled should appear on the final agenda. The union's national executive is likely to intervene to prevent the more extreme being discussed.

- Nearly half as many parents are applying to send their children to schools that have opted out of local authority control than at the same time last year, according to figures released yesterday. At present there are 1.6 applications for every place.

Grant-maintained schools report that applications have risen by an average 45 per cent at the 32 schools which will be running this September. This time last year few schools knew whether they would be allowed to opt out and many of them were facing an uncertain future either through planned closure or amalgamation.

- Scotland's colleges of education are to increase their intake for teacher training courses by 36 per cent in the next academic year, the Scottish Office said.

## Consumer survey

### Hunt for bargains 'a waste of time'

By Ray Clancy

Clean floors, well-stocked shelves, friendly staff and ample car-parking space are what shoppers want rather than low prices, a consumer survey published today says.

Free shopping bags, environmentally friendly products, exotic produce and late opening are also important but shopping around for savings on well-known brands is usually a waste of time, the survey in *Which?* magazine, published by the Consumers' Association, says.

Every week more than £800 million is spent in Britain on groceries, meat and vegetables, of which 80 per cent goes to supermarkets rather than small shops. More shoppers are using the new superstores and hypermarkets which have hardware, gardening, linen and toy sections.

Shoppers also welcome baby changing rooms, lavatories, delicatessen counters, fresh bread baked on the premises, fresh fish counters and seats.

About 75 per cent of shoppers have access to a car and many prefer to drive long distances to out-of-town stores rather than get caught in traffic jams and be unable to find a parking space in the high street.

Hunting for bargains is becoming a trend of the past. "If you are trying to save money on well-known brands you'll have to hunt high and low for a bargain," the magazine says. The survey found that out of 118 cans of baked beans 111 were priced at 26p.

It also found that prices in branches of a single supermarket chain were consistent, whether in Essex, Exeter and Edinburgh. The price of a

shopping basket of 18 everyday items at different supermarket chains varied from £21.38 in Sainsbury's to £22.99 in Safeway.

Cleanliness in supermarkets was the top priority, with an 86 per cent rating from 1,876 shoppers in the nationwide survey. Payment by credit card was the bottom priority, with a 10 per cent score.

A report on the big supermarket chains found:

- Asda had many staffed checkouts, express tills and ample car parking but did not do so well on providing a packing service.

- The Co-op was below average for parking facilities, staffed checkouts and express tills but customers liked stores near their homes.

- Gateway was below average for parking, knowledgeable staff, adequate checkouts and express tills.

- KwikSave was under par on parking, but had helpful, knowledgeable staff and a wide selection of goods and checkouts.

- Safeway had helpful, knowledgeable staff and many checkouts and packers.

- Sainsbury's was above average for a wide selection of products and many checkouts, express tills and packers.

- Tesco was above average for parking facilities and staffed checkouts.

- Waitrose had helpful, knowledgeable staff and adequate express tills and packers.

- The average cost of a wedding in Britain has risen to £5,769, according to a survey of 1,184 couples about to be married carried out by You and Your Wedding magazine (Robin Young writes).

### Vitamin pills no cure for poor diet

Children, pregnant women, the elderly and people on low incomes may not be getting enough vitamins and minerals from their diets, but taking supplement pills is not the answer, according to a report published today in *Which?* magazine (Ray Clancy writes).

Claims that vitamins can cure stress, perk a person up or improve a child's intelligence are misleading and the Government's recommended daily amounts for some vitamins and minerals needs to be reviewed, *Which?* says.

After testing a variety of multivitamins and mineral supplements, the report concludes that it makes more sense to improve or vary diet than to take pills.

"Food gives you a lot of other things you need like fibre and energy, which you won't get from vitamin pills," the report says.

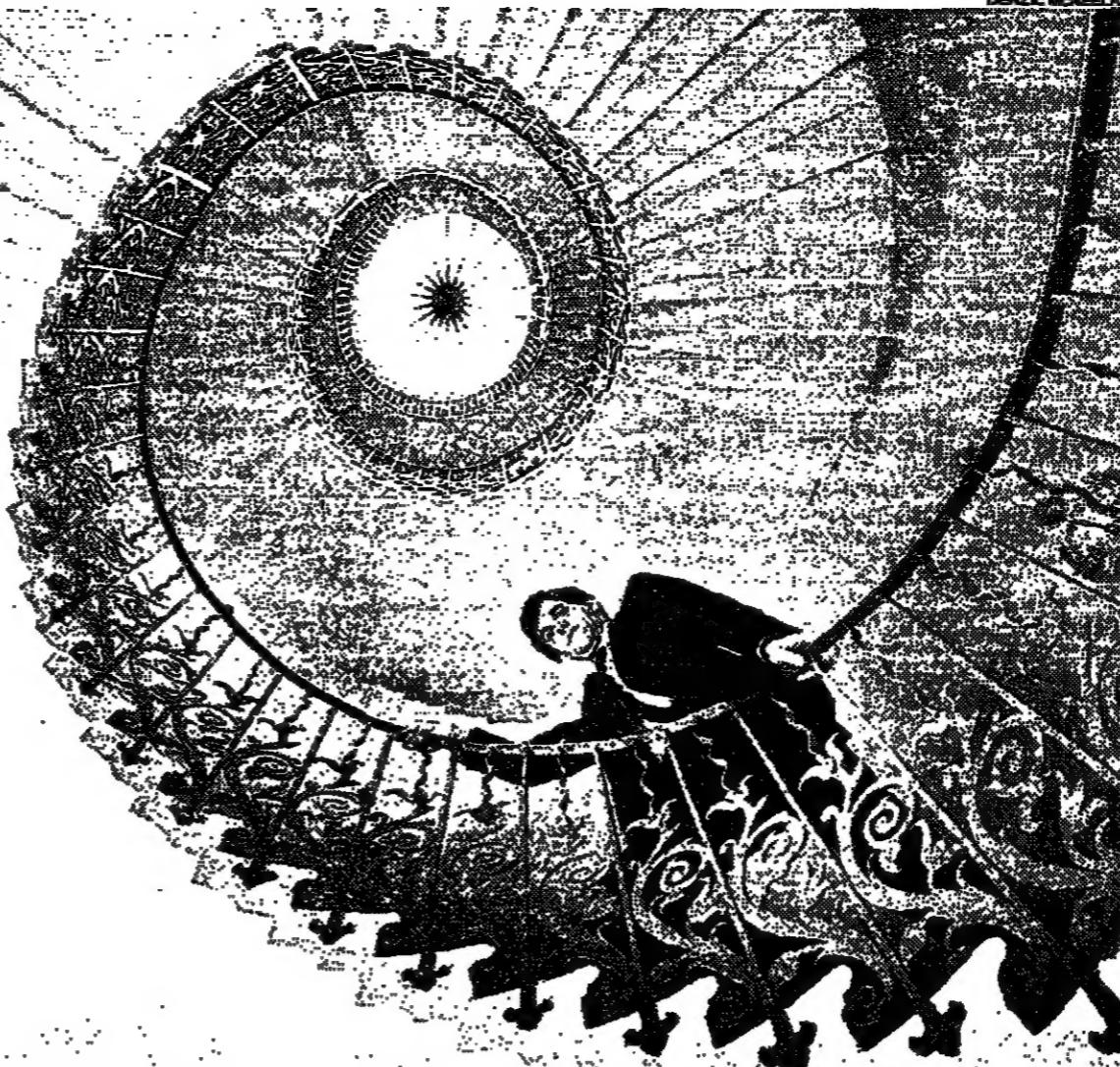
It recommends steaming, not soaking, vegetables, because nutrients are destroyed by boiling and vitamin C dissolves in water.

It says bottles of milk should be put away as soon as possible because exposure to light destroys some vitamins; and recommends using leftover cooking water from vegetables and cooking juices from meat to make soup or gravy.

It says those who choose to take multivitamins should not exceed the doses recommended on the package: "Excessive

# Spiral eye view of a royal house

DENCOL MCNEILANCE



Mr Richard Ormond, of the National Maritime Museum, on the Tulip Staircase at the restored Queen's House, Greenwich.

## Council on the spot over exam mistake

The leader of a Manchester council yesterday publicly apologized for a printing error in an 11-plus examination paper as the authority faced legal action over the mistake.

The test, sat by 2,600 Manchester children, was ruled invalid because some children were given 40 minutes to take the test and others 50 minutes.

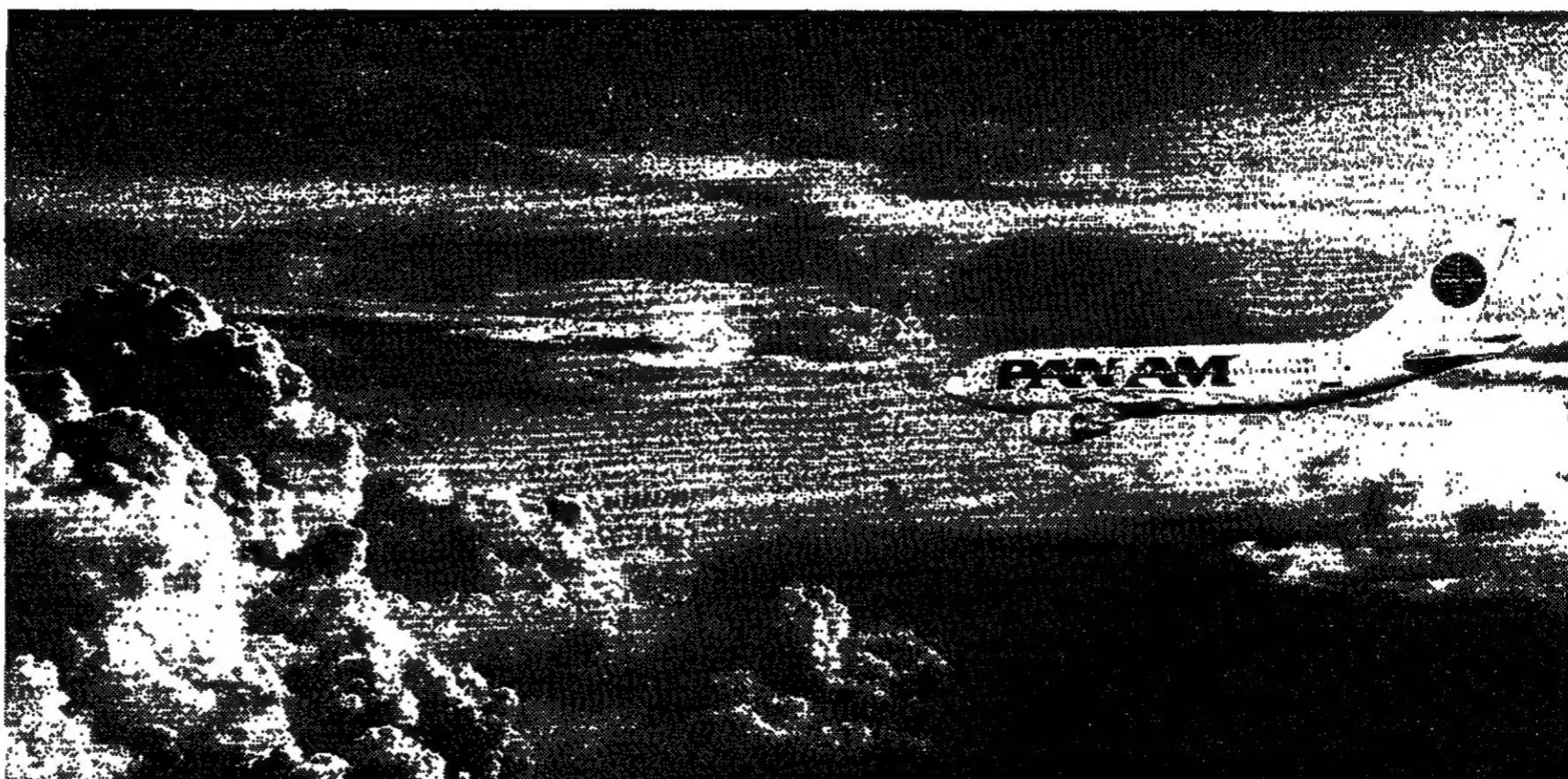
The test was ruled invalid by the education committee last month. Labour members are convinced that, if the results are allowed to stand, aggrieved parents will complain to the Ombudsman and be prepared to go to court. The Tory group, which controls the council, believes that if a new exam is set, legal action will be taken by other parents.

The full council has already reversed the education committee's decision, but the meeting ran out of time before two Labour amendments could be put, and it will be resumed today.

Edinburgh University's Godfrey Thompson Unit, which set the test, has advised that the length of time allowed would have no effect on the children's scores, but Labour councillors are unconvinced.

Mr Colin Warbrick, the leader of the council, yesterday apologized publicly for the mistake.

WE'VE TAKEN  
AIRBUS TECHNOLOGY  
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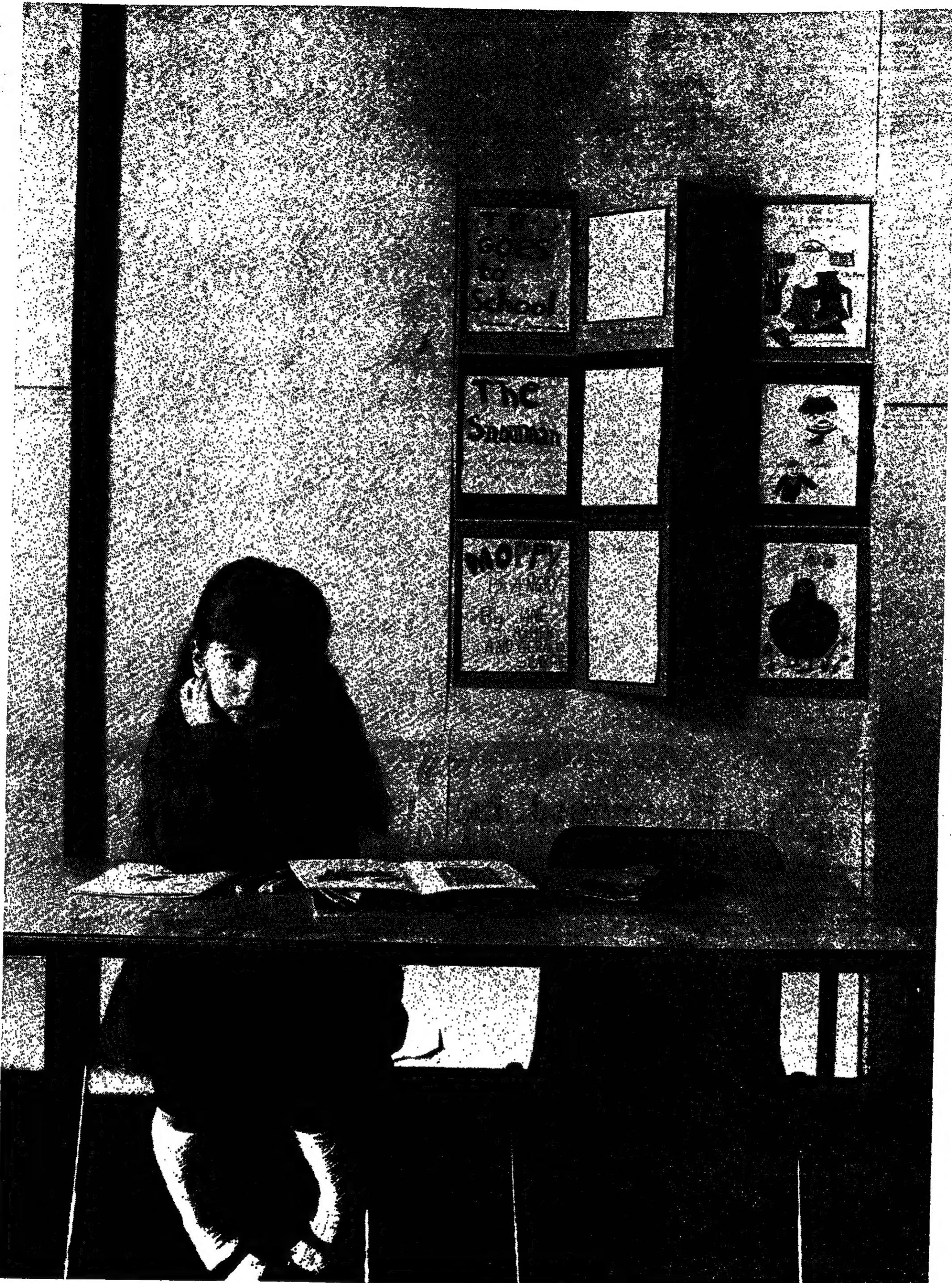
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*There's no shortage of teachers  
in Judy's class.*

*She's already had 15 this year.*

When Judy leaves for school in the mornings, she's never sure who her teacher is going to be.

Sometimes, she doesn't even have a teacher.  
All the changes unsettle her, and she's  
not the only one.

**Currently, our classrooms are desperately short of teachers.**

Schools all over the country are having to cope as best they can, often with supply teachers drafted in from outside.

Despite their efforts, the children's education is bound to be affected.

A major reason for the shortage is, of course, poor pay.

fession is at an all time low. What's more, until teachers are given the recognition and salary they deserve, the situation can only get worse.

So the government must act soon.

If these lessons aren't learnt, it's not just  
Sudsy who'll suffer but her younger sisters

A circular black and white stamp with the text "UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARIES" around the top edge and "DETROIT" at the bottom.

هذا من الأصل

# Pretoria moves to shed its image as apartheid capital

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg and Gavin Bell in Cape Town

While the focus of political attention on South Africa has shifted to Cape Town, where President de Klerk will re-open Parliament tomorrow with a speech that may clearly outline plans for considerable reform of apartheid, the Pretoria city council has taken a bold decision.

After a heated debate on Tuesday night, it voted to open up its bus services, libraries, swimming pools and angling facilities to all races. It will also seek government permission to open up the central business district and a number of suburbs as "free trade areas".

Under the Group Areas Act, one of the main planks of apartheid, blacks are officially barred from conducting business in most city and town centres. Re-zoning as a "free trade" area means that blacks can openly do business without fear of police harassment or, as many do already, use a token white front.

Mr Janie van Zyl, a bus driver, was angry and adamant yesterday. "Kaffirs will not get into my bus," he said. Mr van Zyl, aged 29, is a municipal bus driver in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, and long considered a citadel of conservative Afrikanerdom. He drives his double-decker out of Church Square, dominated by a ponderous statue of Paul Kruger.

"If a kafir tries to get on my bus, I'll throw him off very quickly," said Mr van Zyl. Half a dozen friends with him agreed unanimously.

Mr Sasear Cassim, chairman of the management committee in Laudium, a segregated Indian district of Pretoria, yesterday described the council's decision as "a bold step for Pretoria but a small step in what was happening in South Africa".

The dated rhetoric aside, the council's move is, in fact, courageous. The white sup-

remacist Conservative Party is strong in the city and in 1987 municipal elections gained 19 seats against the ruling National Party's 23. They probably would have won control if votes in some wards had not been split through the intervention of the extremist Herstigte Nasionale Party.

Tuesday night's vote was 22-19, and the Conservatives had a full house.

Meanwhile Johannesburg, which considers itself far more liberal, voted to declare the entire city a free trade area. Only the four Conservative councillors opposed the motion. It was announced that all the city's bus services would go multiracial within 10 days.

Perhaps more significant than the Pretoria and Johannesburg decisions was the vote by the council at Klarskloof, a country town in the Western Transvaal about 60 miles from Johannesburg, to scrap racial trading bars. Rural white communities are considered to be the most strongly opposed to reform.

Four councillors voted against the proposal and four in favour. Mr Chris van Eeden, the chairman of the management committee, decided the issue with his casting vote.

He said the decision was based solely on a business and not a political point of view. "There is a very healthy relationship between all the communities of Klarskloof," he said.

He added: "I believe the opening of the central business district to all races will cultivate that relationship."

In another sign of change in the political climate, President de Klerk yesterday ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of a black man, accused of involvement in guerrilla attacks, who was found hanged in the Zulus when he declared: "We shall fight until our land is as white as it was after Blood River."

No such inquiry had been called after scores of previous incidents in which black ac-

tivists died while in police custody. According to local newspapers, the young man, Mr Clayton Sithole, was a former lover of the daughter of Nelson Mandela, the jailed black leader, and the father of her child.

Signor Casella, aged 20, was freed in southern Italy on Tuesday night after being held for 742 days. Flown home in a military aircraft, he told reporters: "I am happy. It was hard. For two years I saw only people wearing hoods. Now I do not know what to say with all these people here."

One of the kidnappers had been kind. "He was a delinquent, too, but the rest treated me like a dog."

Signor Casella said he had thought he would be killed when his kidnappers moved him from their hide-out in the Aspromonte mountains of Calabria.

Instead, according to a senior police officer, they chained him to a pole from which he managed to free himself and seek help.

Signora Angela Casella, his mother, with whom he had a tearful reunion, became nationally known as "Mother Courage" for her defiance of the "Ndrangheta, the Calabrian equivalent of the Mafia.

She chained herself to trees and slept in tents in Calabrian mountain towns. At least four other hostages are believed to be held by the same organization in the region.

Signor Casella, whose father has a Citroën dealership in Pavia, was seized there on January 18, 1988. The family paid a ransom of one billion lire (£484,000) in August that year. The kidnappers then made further demands for money.

These were not met. The authorities last year froze the family's assets and sent hundreds of police into the Aspromonte region.

Kidnapping is still believed to be an important source of income for many small towns in Calabria, on the toe of the Italian peninsula, where unemployment is rife and the law is laid down by the "Ndrangheta rather than local government.

More than 600 people have been kidnapped in Italy during the past 20 years, most of them in Lombardy.

While more efficient police work has helped diminish the incidence of kidnapping, a hard core of Calabrian kidnappers is still at work. Last year 10 people were kidnapped for ransom, there were 14 the year

before; five of the 24 victims are still in captivity.

Income from ransoms is estimated at about 200 billion lire a year. Much of it is reinvested in building developments around Aspromonte villages. One area — near Locri, renowned as a kidnap

before; five of the 24 victims are still in captivity.

There is practically no one left here worth kidnapping," a local builder said. According to a recent survey by a local magazine, Calabrian kidnappers now concentrate their efforts in towns round Milan. But, once kidnapped, victims are habitually hidden away in the Aspromonte.

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before; five of the 24 victims are still in captivity.

There is a growing awareness that kidnapping is the kind of barbarous crime ill-befitting a country that aspires to fifth place in the world economy, one where average living standards are on a par with most First World nations. TV documentaries denounce the outrages and feature Aspromonte towns, such as San Luca, which supposedly live off ransom money and where, according to a recent commentary, 10 per cent of the population knows where Signor Casella was hidden and who his captors are but no one will talk.

There are plenty of voices — even in Calabria — raised against kidnapping, but the law of *omerta* still rules.

## Repercussions of the Kashmir conflict

# Hindu hardliners urge crackdown on Muslims

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Hindu hardliners are moving swiftly to capitalize on the anti-Indian uprising in Muslim-majority Kashmir, where a state of emergency has created a surly and doubtless temporary peace.

The real danger lies not in the threat of war with Pakistan, which almost certainly will not happen, but in the flames of Hindu-Muslim confrontation that it could ignite across India.

Hindu extremists are now calling for an all-out offensive to round up Muslim guerrilla leaders in Kashmir. They describe the uprising not only as anti-government but, ominously, as "anti-Hindu".

Despite the hostile rhetoric between India and Pakistan in recent days — most of it for domestic consumption — nobody in the higher ranks of the Government in Delhi seriously believes that the two countries are heading for war. There have long been cross-border skirmishes.

Confrontation may result from a mass march into India by Kashmiris from the Pakistani side of the dividing line as a show of solidarity with their Muslim "brothers". In recent weeks there has been an

exodus of up to 10,000 Hindus from the valley, according to unofficial estimates.

India has substantially reinforced its military presence in the frontier zone, primarily in the belief that it may have to encounter masses of civilians.

Even if Pakistan did mount a military operation, it could hardly expect to rout South Asia's security superpower. Pakistan's security forces, in any case, are preoccupied covering the western border with Afghanistan. Pakistan faces grave security problems in Sind province, which the Army is watching with increased unease.

India's portrayal of Pakistan as instigator of the Kashmir trouble ignores the fact that the separatist movement has mass indigenous support.

There is no great love for Pakistan: Kashmiris on the Indian side of the 1948 line of control are aware that joining

Pakistan would mean flooding their valley with Pathans and Punjabis.

The causes of the Kashmiri

conflict are many: contempt for the corrupt National Conference, which has always been the only serious political force in the valley; the impact

of growing Islamic fundamentalism; the strong sense of political and social isolation from India; and the explosive combination of educated and unemployed youth.

Indian politicians have always shied away from Kashmir, since anybody challenging the towering dominance of the National Conference was

perceived almost as anti-Indian. Most alternative political groups were pro-Pakistani, such as the Mlehsu Front and the Awami Action Committee. The only plausible alternative to emerge was the Muslim United Front, although it was fundamentalist. It was crushed in rigged

state assembly elections in 1987. After that, any semblance of legitimate politics in the Kashmir valley died.

The National Conference has collapsed in disgrace and its leader, Dr Farooq Abdullah, is holed up in Delhi. The Indian Government, desperately searching for a viable policy initiative, is exploring whether he and his party can be reshaped, repackaged and rehabilitated.

Hated though it certainly is, the National Conference is still the only political party on offer in the valley. If it did return, it would obviously not have to share power again with the Congress (I) party, which has no political base and no popular support in Kashmir.

The unnatural coalition was forced on Kashmir by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, who wanted to make his presence felt there both for political and nostalgic reasons. His mother, Indira Gandhi, and grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, were Kashmiri brahmins.

While Muslim countries continue to berate India for its handling of the Kashmir crisis, the 90 million-odd non-

Kashmiri Muslims of India have stayed quiet. They have learned over the past 43 years that there is safety in silence. They have never displayed an interest in the affairs of Kashmiri Muslims or in pan-Islamic politics.

Non-Kashmiri Muslims regard the current unprecedented separatist challenge with alarm. Their security inside Hindu India hangs by a perilously thin thread, as anti-Muslim riots during last November's general election demonstrated. They are thinly spread across India, a vulnerable minority that tries hard to be inconspicuous.

The right-wing Hindu party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose parliamentary support is vital to the survival of the National Front Government, has so far restrained itself over Kashmir. But its more vociferous sister party, the Bombay-based Shiv Sena, has demanded the formal imposition of martial law and a putative curfew in the valley.

Kashmir is resented by many Hindus because it receives disproportionate outlays of central government money which, among other things, are used to subsidize

the cost of rice. To many, this amounts to pampering Muslims at the expense of Hindus.

Much of the money is diverted into officials' pockets, however, and the overall cost of living in Kashmir is substantially higher than in the rest of India, in part because of transport costs. Vegetables and meat, for example, are much more expensive. Poverty is therefore as endemic in India's only Muslim majority state — the "spoilt" state, it is often called — as it is in the Hindu heartland.

• SRINAGAR: Muslim secessionists traded gunfire with security forces yesterday as the authorities relaxed the curfew here in the summer capital of Kashmir, leaving four people wounded (AFP reports).

A police spokesman said a constable of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force had been wounded by a sniper. Police and paramilitary troops patrolled the city as the authorities relaxed an indefinite curfew for 11 hours from 5am, but as news of the shooting spread shops that had reopened after several days brought down their shutters again.

# Beirut Christian factions battle to control enclave

From Juan Carlos Gammie, Beirut

The long-simmering struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave exploded violently in the streets of east Beirut yesterday after General Michel Aoun sent his troops to crush the powerful Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia of Mr Saad Geagea.

Christian army soldiers and their allies were locked in heavy fighting at least four residential districts of east Beirut and in the northern fringes of the capital, ignoring desperate calls for ceasefire by the Maronite Church. By evening, wayward shells of those battles began landing in Syrian-controlled west Beirut.

The third of shellfire school across the city as convoys of military ships hurriedly left Beirut port. Last night, there were no reliable casualty reports and Red Cross volunteers were too frightened to pick up the dead and wounded lying in the streets.

As the fighting raged outside, east Beirut residents watched the film *The Killing Fields* on the "Lebanese

Forces" television station. Last night, the Army appeared to have the upper hand and General Aoun was trying to play down the importance and magnitude of the confrontation by declaring that his soldiers had been ordered to "join their brothers in military barracks to avert bloodshed and sustain the losses".

Speaking on the militia's "Free Lebanon" radio station,

General Aoun: Sought to play down scale of fighting.

# 'Couch potatoes' to be fed round-the-clock litigation

From James Bone, New York

America's growing population of television addicts — "couch potatoes", as they are known — which already supports *Weather Channel*, a 24-hour forecast service on a cable network, is about to have its endurance further tested by two new stations which intend to broadcast round-the-clock action from the courts.

Hoping to cash in on the present popularity of *television verité* — which the public has an appetite for real courtroom drama.

But the first syndicated TV programme using only material from real trials, Republic Pictures' half-hour *On Trial*, which was broadcast last year on 140 local stations covering 75 per cent of the country, did not achieve a second season.

Admitting that real trials are often dull, its producers said that the show could not attract more than about three-quarters of its required audience of 3.2 million households.

Live courtroom coverage is now possible in 44 states in the US, and has produced such media successes as last year's child abuse case in New York against Mr Joel Steinberg, who was convicted of killing his illegally adopted daughter in his Greenwich Village apartment.

Local stations run hour after hour of live testimony from the Steinberg trial, apparently convincing programmers that the public has an appetite for real courtroom drama.

They also plan, during dull moments, to air short features and law-related news. For those who still cannot get enough, the *In Court* channel is considering screening films featuring fictional courtroom dramas at weekends.

But one problem which the new channels will face is that many of the most important and interesting trials in America, including the forthcoming cases against General Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian leader, Mr Michael Milken, the junk-bond king, and Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines First Lady, are held in federal courts, from which cameras are barred.

# Candidates line up in the wings for Gorbachov's job

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

President Gorbachov yesterday denied that he had any intention of resigning his post as Communist Party chief and declared that he was preparing for important decisions on the future of the country's power structure.

His remarks came after a report on Tuesday night by Cable News Network that he was considering standing down as party chief while remaining President of the Soviet Union.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov yesterday dismissed the US report — which like earlier rumours sent world stock markets plunging — as "groundless".

Rumours predicting Mr Gorbachov's imminent demise have in the past always outpaced hard evidence that he is in real danger.

Despite the latest denials, the number of candidates who could plausibly replace the Soviet leader should he resign or be deposed, is growing.

Even a year ago, there were commonly held to be at most two alternatives to Mr Gorbachov: the obvious frontrunner was Mr Yegor Ligachov, who provided a

rallying point for those who felt that Mr Gorbachov's programme was a force for economic and social chaos and was ideologically unsound to boot. The other, less realistic, candidate was Mr Boris Yeltsin, not so much for his radical but vague political programme as for the rapport he enjoyed with ordinary people — amply demonstrated by his victory in the Moscow elections last spring.

Now Mr Ligachov's star seems to be in decline, although the volume of applause for his contributions at forums like the Congress of People's Deputies shows that his popularity among the rank and file of the Communist Party is undiminished. The reduction in his influence could result from his responsibility for the still failing agricultural sector or reflect the political demotion he suffered when allotted the agriculture portfolio in 1988.

He also seems to have lost the pre-eminence he enjoyed in the Central Committee Secretariat. This body was almost disbanded when he was effectively "Second Secretary", but it was rejuvenated late last year with the appointment of four new secretaries.

Mr Yeltsin's popularity as a politician of the masses has, if anything, increased over the past year. However, the various components of his programme — which would outlaw privileges for senior party officials, permit non-Communist parties to operate, and denationalise many branches of industry — appeal to different groups of people and alienate others.

He could realistically become leader only if a majority of the Central Committee decided that Mr Gorbachov was not reformist enough and embarked on a wholesale renewal of the leading bodies. Given that the Central Committee is at present more politically conservative than the Politburo, this scenario is unlikely — unless mass demonstrations of the sort seen in Eastern Europe were to force its hand. In that case, the nomination of Mr Yeltsin might be seen as a way to placate the masses, while leaving the Communist Party with a hold on power.

As long as Soviet citizens stay off the streets, however, any replacement for Mr

Gorbachov is likely to come not from either of the "extreme" wings of the party leadership but from the centre. Mr Gorbachov's strength as leader has been his ability to hold the centre, tipping now to the conservatives, now to the reformists, as one or other group tries its strength. Anyone who aims to succeed him will need to command the support of a majority of the Politburo — which is demonstrably divided — and possibly of the Central Committee (which is equally polarised) as well.

If economic conditions in the Soviet Union deteriorate, and if nationalist unrest increases, the location of the centre may shift. It can be argued that the economic proposals for the next five-year plan presented by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, last month indicated that the centre was already shifting, although it was still firmly controlled by Mr Gorbachov.

Were it to shift further, the two most plausible contenders for the post of party General Secretary and the increasingly powerful post of President could be Mr Ryzhkov himself, or the secretary with

responsibility for ideology, Mr Vadim Medvedev. Both have successfully concealed their personal political sympathies, bending as skilfully as Mr Gorbachov with the prevailing wind; each can claim to be a reformer or a conservative, depending on the circumstances and the issue at hand.

Of the two, Mr Ryzhkov — who impressed Soviet audiences on television in the aftermath of the Armenian earthquake in December, 1988 — probably has the advantage. He looks and sounds like a leader of the new school, possesses considerable personal charm (he was the speaker at last year's reception for International Women's Day), but has rarely shown himself to be an out-and-out reformer.

He emerged from last year's Central Committee plenum as a supporter of law and order and against a free-for-all in the cultural field. There is no evidence of the economic guidelines for the next five-year plan, which so disappointed the reform lobby by supporting a continued role for central planning — although

they did appear to contradict some of the more reformist sentiments of Mr Gorbachov.

Mr Medvedev is a less well-known quantity. He has been seen as a conservative, partly because of his rather grey demeanour and the monotonous delivery of his speeches; partly because he stated categorically that Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* would not be published in the Soviet Union, a decision that has now been reversed.

He has been seen as exerting continued, if lighter, censorship on the Soviet media, although television, in particular, has been transformed almost beyond recognition. His tenure has also seen the end of several ideological disputes with Western and East European communists, which originated when the guardian of communist orthodoxy was Mr Mikhail Soslov. Mr Medvedev's ability to conceal a reformist soul behind a somewhat Slavonian manner might just give him the edge over Mr Ryzhkov in the stakes for party General Secretary, if not for President.

## Desperate gamble by Romanians to avert pre-poll chaos

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

A last-ditch attempt to prevent Romania slipping further into violent political chaos will be made today when all-party talks resume to try to find an agreed method of ruling the country ahead of the general election in May.

In case of further demonstrations of the kind which brought the country close to anarchy in recent days, Soviet-built tanks and armoured cars were positioned yesterday round the Front's headquarters where the meeting will take place.

Officials working for the Front appear close to collapse from physical exhaustion. A member of the private office of Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister, who had just handed in his resignation, was asked why. "Tiredness and total confusion," he replied.

The atmosphere of crisis intensified when one of the country's leading poets, Ana Blandiana, became the latest intellectual to resign from the Front, which has been blamed for providing a cover for old-style Communists to continue running Romania.

On the eve of the talks, the leading political strategist on the Front's 11-strong executive unveiled a series of concessions designed to win the support of the main opposition parties, whose offices have been attacked by mobs which the Front has been accused of recruiting.

The professor has proposed that the party should join a coalition to share power until voting on May 20, while at the same time splitting away the political wing of the Front to run as a contestant in the election. "We believe it is illegal for the Front to hold political power and to take part in elections at the same time," he told a group of

Western journalists.

In the present hot-house atmosphere it was unclear whether the eleventh-hour gesture made by the Front would be sufficient to satisfy the 19 opposition parties registered so far. Most are convinced that the Front is determined to maintain its grip on power at any cost in order to impose reformed communism of the Gorbachov variety.

"What we are now witnessing is a struggle for power between those who want to retain a communist system under another name and those who want to introduce Western-style democracy and introduce a form of mixed economy," said Mr Nicolae Costel, founder of the Free Democratic Party.

Mr Costel said that seven parties running as various types of democrats had withdrawn a pact announced only four days ago to support the Front's methods of organizing a political dialogue.

"We are going to contest them because we have proof that they have been organizing the street mobs to attack the opposition," he stated. "Their claims of spontaneity have been lies."

Mr Costel said his party was complaining formally to the Front that it had not received promised funds with which to run an election campaign. "We have seen through them," he added. "They are trying to retain the communist system under another name, and we shall oppose that with all our might."

The struggle between the Front and the parties, so vitriolic that it has overshadowed the euphoria of the revolution, has intensified because of memories of 1947. Then the discredited parties,

## Sharansky sees exodus as boost to peace

By Michael Krieger, Diplomatic Correspondent

The exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel was developing into the biggest such migration for several centuries, Mr Natan Sharansky said in London yesterday, but he discounted American, Soviet and Arab concerns over its detrimental effect on Middle East peace.

The influx of half a million well-educated, highly motivated professionals as new immigrants to Israel would help bolster the country's sense of security and make it more amenable to negotiations, he declared. With Eastern Europe moving towards democracy, the West should push for more democracy among Israel's neighbours.

When the Arab states developed their own democracies, there would be a strong chance they would develop their own Peace Now movements, their own oppositions, their own free press — and that would

make it much easier to negotiate a solution.

The Russian-born human rights activist, who settled in Israel after spending 10 years in Soviet jails for his dissident activities, said the rate of arrivals in Israel of Soviet Jews had increased from 500 a month to 4,000 in the first two weeks of last month, and with anti-Semitism rising in the Soviet Union flights were already booked up until March next year.

The waiting list was cautiously estimated at half a million, and if plans for direct flights to Israel from a number of Soviet cities were implemented there could be 500 arriving daily — nearly 200,000 annually.

Mr Sharansky said the exodus was happening because of the anti-Semitism that was occurring amid the uncertainties caused by President Gorbachov's reforms. "As a

communist, he thought that if he gave people a little bit of freedom they would be so grateful they would work better. He did not realize, thank God, that there is no such thing as a little bit of freedom."

The Soviet Union was now in the worst possible situation of being neither totalitarian nor free. People needed scapegoats.

Following remarks by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, suggesting that the new immigrants might be settled in the occupied West Bank, both the Soviet and US governments expressed opposition to such action which, they said, would create new obstacles to a peaceful resolution of the Middle East issue.

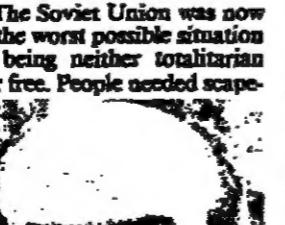
This concern was misplaced, said Mr Sharansky. Israel was a free country and nobody could force anyone to settle in any particular place. No more than 1 or 2 per cent of the new arrivals were interested in living in the West Bank territory, he said. That was 20,000 out of a million.

Far from creating obstacles to peace, the influx of Soviet Jews bolstered its prospects. "I think the stronger Israel becomes, the more secure Israel will feel and a feeling of security is what is missing from the Middle East."

Mr Sharansky is heading an independent campaign to raise funds among the Jewish diaspora to help finance the massive task of absorbing the new wave of immigrants into Israeli society.

The Israeli Government is hoping to raise \$600 million (£360 million) from the diaspora and hoping that \$60 million of that will come from Britain. Mr Sharansky believes it will have to think in much bigger figures.

Mr Sharansky, campaigning for funds to aid migrants.



At the same time, leading Palestinians called on "the nations of the world" to prevent Israel from settling Soviet Jews in the territories.

Mr Suweinat Najah, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization executive committee, called on Moscow to reintroduce transit camps in Europe for Jewish emigrants. Mr Najah, who is leader of the Palestinian Communist Party, said in Tunis that the PLO was suggesting that the transit camps be "in Vienna, Rome or elsewhere", and that the Jews who went to them should be free to choose where they settled.

Comparatively few new arrivals

have chosen to live in the territories.

to direct flights from Moscow to Israel and should seek firm guarantees that migrating Jews would not settle in the West Bank and Gaza, he said.

Mr Najah said he would put the demand to Mr Genadji Tararov, the Soviet envoy, who has arrived in the city for talks with the PLO.

Mr Yasir Arafat, the PLO chairman, said "forcing Jews to go from Moscow to Tel Aviv is a form of racial discrimination". He declared: "How can they go to Palestine, the land of Palestinian Arabs who have been expelled?"

The Soviet Union should not agree

## Genscher insists unified Germany stays in Nato

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that a unified Germany must remain in Nato.

In a wide-ranging speech looking ahead to a new Europe, he foresaw the Warsaw Pact working alongside the Western alliance to guarantee the peace and thus European security.

The key to the problem of a unified Germany remaining in Nato without harming Soviet interests, he said, lay in reaching quick agreement at the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna.

Herr Genscher said the first Vienna treaty must be fol-

lowed — Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, said last night that East German soldiers would be allowed to serve in the Bundeswehr, provided they could show they were properly trained and capable (Ian Murray writes).

Herr Genscher, however, considerably developed the theme. A neutral Germany was in nobody's interest, and a reunited country must remain in Nato, he said, but Nato must not extend its military territory to take in present-day East Germany.

The alliance had to avoid taking advantage of the political changes in East Europe while ensuring that neither the former nor reunification harmed Soviet security interests.

Speaking to the Evangelical Academy at Tutzing in Bavaria, Herr Genscher charted a future in which the two formerly confrontational European defence pacts co-operated with each other.

The ideas were the most

ante global and thus, European, security.

Beyond disarmament he wanted 1990 to be also the year in which the Conference on Security Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) summit met and set the scene for a new European peace order from the Atlantic to the Urals within a "common European home".

This tied-in the two superpowers. American involvement in CSCE showed it was deeply involved in Europe, while the Soviet Union was geographically very much a part of it. Germany's future, too, had to be part of an integrated Europe.

Herr Genscher suggested 10 new institutions to help the integration process. These would be: An economic East-West co-operation institution, involving the proposed European Development Bank; a joint European institution for guaranteeing human rights, with the extension of the Council of Europe's Convention over the whole of the Continent; a European "legal space" with harmonized laws; a European environment agency; extension of the European Space Agency with suitable East Bloc partners; a European telecommunications structure; a traffic infrastructure and policy centre; a European arms verification centre; and a European centre for the study of conflicts.

## Israel rejects superpower criticism of settlement

From Richard Ovets

Jerusalem

Israel has reacted angrily to warnings issued by Washington and Moscow not to send Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories.

Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, told Mr Arye Levin, the head of an Israeli cultural delegation in Moscow, that the Kremlin would not tolerate the use of Soviet Jewish immigrants by Israel to dispossess Palestinian Arabs "by pushing Palestinians off land belonging to them".

In Washington, the State Depart-

ment said that "putting more settlers into the territories is an obstacle to peace", and the US would not provide funds for that purpose.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, said in Jerusalem that international intervention was "artificial" because Israel was not directing immigrants to settle in the West Bank.

But diplomats said Mr Shamir had himself aroused superpower concern by saying last week that a "greater Israel" was needed to absorb the thousands of arrivals from the Eastern bloc. Israeli experts have forecast a worsening financial crisis because of the cost of absorbing the immigrants.

At the same time, leading Palestinians called on "the nations of the world" to prevent Israel from settling Soviet Jews in the territories.

Mr Suweinat Najah, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization executive committee, called on Moscow to reintroduce transit camps in Europe for Jewish emigrants. Mr Najah, who is leader of the Palestinian Communist Party, said in Tunis that the PLO was suggesting that the transit camps be "in Vienna, Rome or elsewhere", and that the Jews who went to them should be free to choose where they settled.

Comparatively few new arrivals

have chosen to live in the territories.

لبنان من حيث

## COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

# Serbs serve ultimatum as Kosovo toll rises

From Dessa Trevisan  
Belgrade

Five ethnic Albanians were killed in clashes with police in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province yesterday, the eighth consecutive day of protests.

Tanjung said three people were killed in the town of Glogovac, and reporters on the scene said a fourth person had also been killed there. Yugoslav television said police shot dead a protester in the town of Stanovac.

Yugoslav media and reporters in Kosovo say that 26 people have been killed since Albanians took to the streets last week demanding political reforms, although Tanjung has reported only 15 deaths.

"It is feared that Kosovo is on the verge of a civil war," Tanjung said.

The latest violence came after thousands of Serbs demonstrated throughout the night in front of the Yugoslav federal parliament building in Belgrade demanding weapons. They also shouted abuse at the Slovene and Croatian leadership, whom Serbia is accusing of backing the Albanian rebellion.

In Titograd, the capital of Montenegro, thousands of demonstrators demanded that relations with Slovenia be broken off. They also demanded that an ultimatum be sent to the federal presidency to restore order using all means at its disposal, including armed force, within 48 hours.

The speakers insisted that, if the Yugoslav federal authorities were not capable of restoring peace within the given time, they should be forced to step down.

Amid cheers, the speakers



**Opposing signals:** A Yugoslav policeman, left, makes a victory sign after a clash with Albanian demonstrators in Kosovo, while protesters also claim success.

erupted in the town of Podujevo after some 3,000 Albanians, including women and children in their arms, tried to push their way to the town centre but were dispersed by police with tear gas and baton charges.

In Lipjan protest marches were quickly dispersed, but after a few hours the protesters regrouped again. Cars and trains were being stoned by demonstrators and roads were being blocked.

Villages inhabited by Serbs

are guarded by police, while the villagers keep armed vigil. Albanian peasants have joined the protest and demonstrators are finding shelter in the wooded mountain villages where fierce fighting was reported yesterday.

The Kosovo region is becoming an open wound which threatens to bleed Yugoslavia to death.

The Albanian demonstrators are demanding democracy and a multi-party system, such as is being

realized in other parts of Yugoslavia. They are also demanding free elections.

The collapse of the Yugoslav communist party's congress and the disarray in the ranks of Yugoslavia's leading communists have provided an impetus for the Albanians in the region to seek equal status for themselves.

Given a choice, the Albanians would without any doubt vote for their own leaders, such as the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo,

which has increased its membership to almost 200,000 in less than a month. However, such a possibility is for the time being excluded by Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, who remains set against giving any political institutions to the Albanians. Barred from participating in political life, the Albanians have no other option but to take to the streets and protest. In fact, they have been doing so ever since Serbia took over control of the

region. However, at this particular time they are playing into the hands of Mr Milosevic, whose popularity has been fading.

Serbian intellectuals have become disillusioned because of his reluctance to accept political pluralism, while Serbian nationalist extremists accuse him of not being firm enough in Kosovo.

The unrest in the region provides Mr Milosevic with a welcome opportunity to restore his popularity.

But in Slovenia the Kosovo repression has been condemned by all, including the local communist party leaders.

Slovenia and Croatia have called for an emergency meeting of the federal authorities, while in Kosovo Albanian militants are pledging to go on fighting to the last.

The view in the northern republics — shared by Western diplomats — is that Mr Milosevic's intransigence and reliance on repression only has thrown away any possibility of finding a way out of the Kosovo problem.

The Albanians feel that they are under Serbian occupation and with an imposed leadership, they see their only chance in protest.

"If the Serbs do not relax their reign, Albanians would have no choice but to take to the hills," an Albanian dissident said.

"Unless Milosevic accepts a dialogue with true Albanian representatives who enjoy popular trust, Serbia — and with it Yugoslavia — will be thrown into bloody and protracted civil war, which it could never win," a Western diplomat predicted.

## Urgent surgery on Glemp

From A Correspondent  
Warsaw

Cardinal Józef Glemp, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, was in a serious condition yesterday after two emergency operations to stop internal bleeding.

Mr Glemp, aged 61, was rushed from his palace to hospital on Tuesday morning, where an immediate operation was performed to stop gastro-intestinal bleeding.

A communiqué from the Polish Primate's secretariat said that during the night he had had a second operation.

A medical source at the hospital said that the situation was critical overnight and that "the cardinal is far from stable". President Jaruzelski, who frequently met Cardinal Glemp during the recent turbulent years, Poland, visited him in hospital yesterday.

Cardinal Glemp has been head of the Polish Church since 1981 after the death of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. He underwent successful surgery for a gall bladder problem two years ago.

His policy of moderation in dealing with the communists over the past eight years angered many militants in the Solidarity free trade union movement, but he had the support of Mr Lech Wałęsa, the Solidarity leader.

His patience and regular contacts with General Jaruzelski, the former communist party leader who is now the head of state, brought success for the Church, whose position in Poland was officially recognized last year.

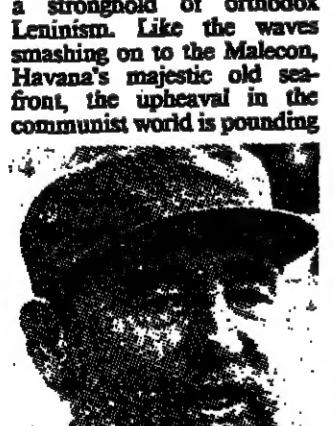
## Cubans face the prickly realities of isolationism

By Charles Bremer

Beards, long the insignia of President Castro and his guerrilla comrades, have just made a comeback in Cuba. The reason, however, is not fashion but necessity.

A Soviet ship carrying 10.3 million "Sputnik" blades destined for Cuban clubs failed to turn up in Havana in December, provoking a severe shortage and forcing many men to stop shaving or sharpen used blades. The ship has now sailed but Señor Rigoberto Fernández, the Deputy Trade Minister, sounded the good news by going on the radio to say that he had no idea when the next load would come.

A lack of "Sputniks" is just one facet of the crisis now being endured in Cuba as President Castro's tropical island struggles to go it alone as a stronghold of orthodox Leninism. Like the waves smashing on to the Malecón, Havana's majestic old sea-front, the upheaval in the communist world is pounding



Dr Castro: Confident he will weather the Gorbachov era, both the economy of Cuba and some of its leaders' convictions.

"We had a very difficult situation when we started our revolution, but this is the most difficult since then," says Señor José Antonio Arévalo, Cuba's chief representative in Washington. But foreign diplomats, as well as critical allies like Nicaragua's Sandinista leaders, believe it unlikely that President Castro is about to go the way of his former colleagues in Eastern Europe.

Although effectively a dictator, Fidel — as he is widely called — still enjoys great loyalty as the leader who threw out the Americans and gave his impoverished country a modicum of welfare as well as prestige in the world.

The "maximum leader" has just warned his people that what he calls the "atomization" of the socialist bloc

means that Cuba faces "total uncertainty" about its traditional economic ties with Moscow and Eastern Europe.

There is little meat, poultry, flour or milk available in Havana. In this season of traditional abundance in the Caribbean, fish has all but disappeared from the shops and fruit and vegetables are rarely to be seen. Today, the daily bread ration is being reduced from 7oz. to less than 6oz. per household and the price of a loaf in Havana boosted by 30 per cent. The Russians are to blame again, say the Cubans, because Soviet ships have failed for the first time in 20 years to deliver wheat and flour.

Apart from the diminution of Eastern bloc food and consumer goods on which Cuba depends, the Soviet Union has cut heavily the supplies of its cheap oil which fuels all the nation's vehicles and which Cuba traditionally also re-exports for hard currency.

Havana taxi drivers have been told to expect the worst. The other big Soviet subsidy — the high payment Moscow makes for Cuban sugar — is also on its way out, say Soviet officials.

More bad tidings came last month when the Comecon trading bloc decided to switch to hard-currency trading. Approximately 80 per cent of Cuba's exports now go to Eastern bloc countries under the Comecon barter system.

Yet another blow was dealt by the US invasion of Panama. Under General Manuel Noriega, Cuba set up a string of companies to handle exports and imports, enabling Havana to side-step the US embargo.

The big question for President Castro's Latin sympathizers as well as his American foes is how long he can fend off the forces of change, as pledged in the big slogan now seen in Havana: "Cuba would rather sink in the sea than take down the banner of revolution and socialism".

Fidel wants to do things his way and he is sure he will be proved right," says a Nicaraguan official. "He is also convinced that he will survive Gorbachov."

A US State Department expert agreed that Dr Castro was different from the communist leaders of Eastern Europe: "There isn't even graffiti on the walls. We don't think Cuba is threatened to the degree East Europe was."

See Front Page  
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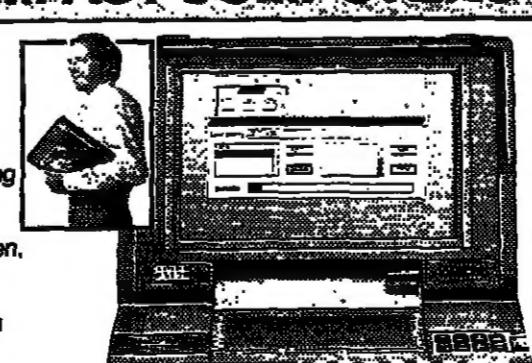
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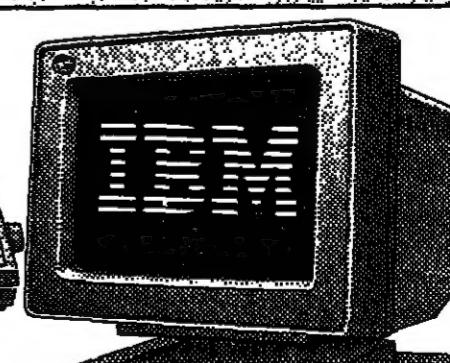
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## SPECTRUM

# New referee for a troubled game

## THE TIMES PROFILE

ARTHUR SANDFORD

**U**ntil yesterday, there was a sign proclaiming "Blessed are the Peacemakers" over the door leading into the chief executive's office in Nottingham County Hall. But Arthur Sandford has taken it with him to his new post as chief executive of England's Football League, which he takes up today.

It is debatable how appropriate the motto is for anyone taking up such a job only three days after the publication of the Taylor report into last year's Hillsborough tragedy. If the game's first reaction to the report's disapproval of the Government's ID card scheme was euphoric, a closer look brought the realization that the whole basis of professional football in this country was under threat.

The report leaves football or, more realistically, the 92 clubs for which Sandford will be responsible, facing the task of finding an estimated £130 million to make the improvements necessary to turn decaying 19th-century structures into safe all-seater stadiums fit for the 21st century.

And that is only Sandford's first problem. Hooliganism is at best, under control, rather than conquered. The English clubs' continuing exclusion from European competition, a problem whose resolution may require the Government's active goodwill — and there is no sign of that in the offing — is a running sore on the body of the domestic game, and preparing for 1992 is becoming a pressing need.

In itself that list would be formidable, were the league a united body. Notoriously it is not. Quarrels over money between the small group of rich clubs and the rest are a constant factor, leading to continual threats of a breakaway "Super League".

Even Sandford's appointment,

although finally unanimous, took months of public bickering which at times threatened the survival of Bill Fox, the league president, to whom Sandford will be responsible.

Many people surveying Sandford's inheritance would decide that a capacity for knocking heads together might be of more use than an ability to make peace. Sandford has retorted that "Blessed are the Peacemakers" does not mean "Blessed are the Compromisers", and his close associates are in no doubt that behind the slightly worried expression there is a manager of high calibre.

He has the classic background for a local government officer, and indeed football league administrator — the bright, working class grammar school boy. Sandford, the son of a Lancashire shunt-maker, passed the 11-plus to go to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, one of the North's outstanding grammar schools. It was — and is — a famous soccer school, but Sandford's main claim to sporting fame in his schooldays was as a runner: when he was 15 he won the Lancashire junior half-mile championship. But his background made an interest in football almost obligatory.

There is a photograph of Sandford, at the age of six or seven, dressed as the mascot for Blackburn St Matthews, his uncle Harry's church team. Along with many of his peers he stood behind the goal at Ewood Park to watch Blackburn Rovers, the local club, which was then in the first division. A little later he played club cricket in the same team as Bryan Douglas, Rovers' international wingman.

He took up refereeing as a way of keeping fit, and that brought him his only other official position in football — secretary of Blackburn Referees Society. It clearly

caught his fancy, and he refereed in the Football Combination, composed of league clubs' second teams, and reached the football league status as a linesman from 1974 to 1977.

After QEGS he went on to the University of London to read law, graduating in 1962. He returned to the north-west, to Preston, where he was articled to the town clerk, and stayed for three years, before moving to Hampshire County Council as local government when he was appointed by Nottinghamshire — a promotion that ended his refereeing career.

But he retained his interest in football. Both the Nottingham clubs, County and Forest — where he was a regular spectator — found



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But he retained his interest in football. Both the Nottingham clubs, County and Forest — where he was a regular spectator — found

by the more aggressive approach of the new wave of local government officers, and Sandford played his part in the development of new towns, as well as advocating the building of the M25.

In 1970 he moved to Nottinghamshire. He was clearly marked out as a high flyer, and in 1978 he became the youngest ever county council chief executive when he was appointed by Nottinghamshire — a promotion that ended his refereeing career.

But he retained his interest in football. Both the Nottingham clubs, County and Forest — where he was a regular spectator — found

him helpful over a range of matters, and he was a frequent guest on Nottingham Forest's trips abroad for European matches. When he argues passionately for the return of English clubs to Europe, which he regards as one of his most important tasks, he speaks from personal knowledge.

He showed, in local govern-

ment, the fine political touch necessary in a council in which power was evenly balanced. He worked successfully with both Labour and Conservative council leaders, and his political skills enabled the council to surmount intense local divisions caused by the miners' strike.

BIOGRAPHY	
1941	Born East Lancashire
1952	Attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn
1959-62	Studied law at the University of London
1962	Articled to Preston Town Clerk
1962	Married Kathleen (two daughters)
1966	Joined Hampshire County Council as legal officer
1970	Joined Nottinghamshire County Council
1978	Appointed Chief Executive Nottinghamshire County Council
1988	October 31, appointed chief executive of the Football League

Those skills were in the local government tradition, but unlike the old town clerk, the new chief executive saw his role as not just carrying out his councillors' wishes, but setting their agenda and being an active manager rather than a reactive one.

He is respected in Whitehall and has a reputation as a lobbyist, skills which will be undoubtedly assets if football is going to persuade the Government to unbend and give financial support, or help the clubs return to European competition.

His various stints have liked and respected him, and that should not change. He inherits a smooth-running, professional organization divided between the league headquarters at Lytham, Lancashire, and the commercial office in London which, after years of neglect, is beginning to put the game on a much sounder financial

footing. He is at ease in business, and has some experience as a fundraiser and financier. He played an important part in developing the National Water Sport Centre at Holme Pierpoint, Nottinghamshire, and oversaw the sale of local authority land. "Our land sales total to £17 million, so I'm used to dealing with big numbers," he once remarked.

The recommendations of the Taylor report mean he is now going to have to get used to even bigger ones. Running a local government machine is not the same as running a high profile industry like football.

"Alan Hardaker came from local government too, you know," he is fond of saying, revealing a dry sense of humour which will be much tested in the months to come. Hardaker, the league secretary between 1957 and 1979, ran the league virtually as a dictator, and the mention of his name

might cause one or two potential miscreants to shudder.

There have been suggestions that Sandford was the choice of the big clubs because they believed an outsider would find the league's unwieldy structure unacceptable and recommend changes in their favour. His background, and his friends' testimony, suggest that they may have misjudged their man. His record suggests that behind the mild exterior he has the necessary steel and management skills.

But there is one serious question mark. He is stepping into a very public arena for the first time and, as well as an efficient and good leader, football needs one who will be seen as being dynamic and persuasive — in other words, a good front man.

It is not a role easily associated with Sandford. "He has marginally less charisma than Graham Kelly," grunted one cynical journalist after Sandford's first press conference after his appointment. Kelly, effectively now Sandford's predecessor and now his counterpart at the Football Association, was noted as an able administrator at Lytham, but notoriously lacking a dynamic personality.

Kelly, however, has begun to blossom in his new role, and possibly Sandford will also. He has one thing going for him: with the English game facing its greatest crisis, the external threat is likely to persuade even the most bullish Super Leaguers that, for the moment, everyone has to pull together. That in itself is an advantage none of the league's previous leaders have enjoyed. Even then, a talent for knocking heads together might still be required.

Peter Ball

## The perils of the compiler

Crossword addicts keep *The Times* team logical, smooth and innocent

though not, one hopes, in consistency or fairness. The Saturday prize puzzle, incidentally, is not necessarily the hardest of the week, but is chosen as a good example of its kind.

The compiling of the puzzles seems to interest many readers. The first question is how does one start — with clues or the grid? The answer is the grid, because if you start with the clues you soon find that you cannot fit more than about half-a-dozen chosen words into the grid which, being symmetrical, is fairly intractable. (We do not make up the grids as we go along, but use any of our 25 stock grids.)

Filling in the grid usually

takes a couple of hours (longer if the words behave perversely in the bottom right-hand corner).

Devising the clues, which is the enjoyable part, can be

done at any time, anywhere. I reckon the whole puzzle grid and clues, is a day-and-a-half's work, barring accidents.

One of the most common accidents is duplication.

Sometimes the same word crops up in different puzzles intended for the same week. One must then either leave one of the puzzles to lie fallow for a couple of months or attempt structural repairs if the grid will allow it. But if the offending word or phrase is both long and memorable — golden handshake, to take a painful example — there is really nothing to be done except warn compilers to lay off it for the next couple of years.

And, it may not be easy to

find a different clue for the duplicated word when it is eventually used. We had a bad run once with conundrum,

which had to be successively elided at:

Firm with a woman in order to beat a problem;

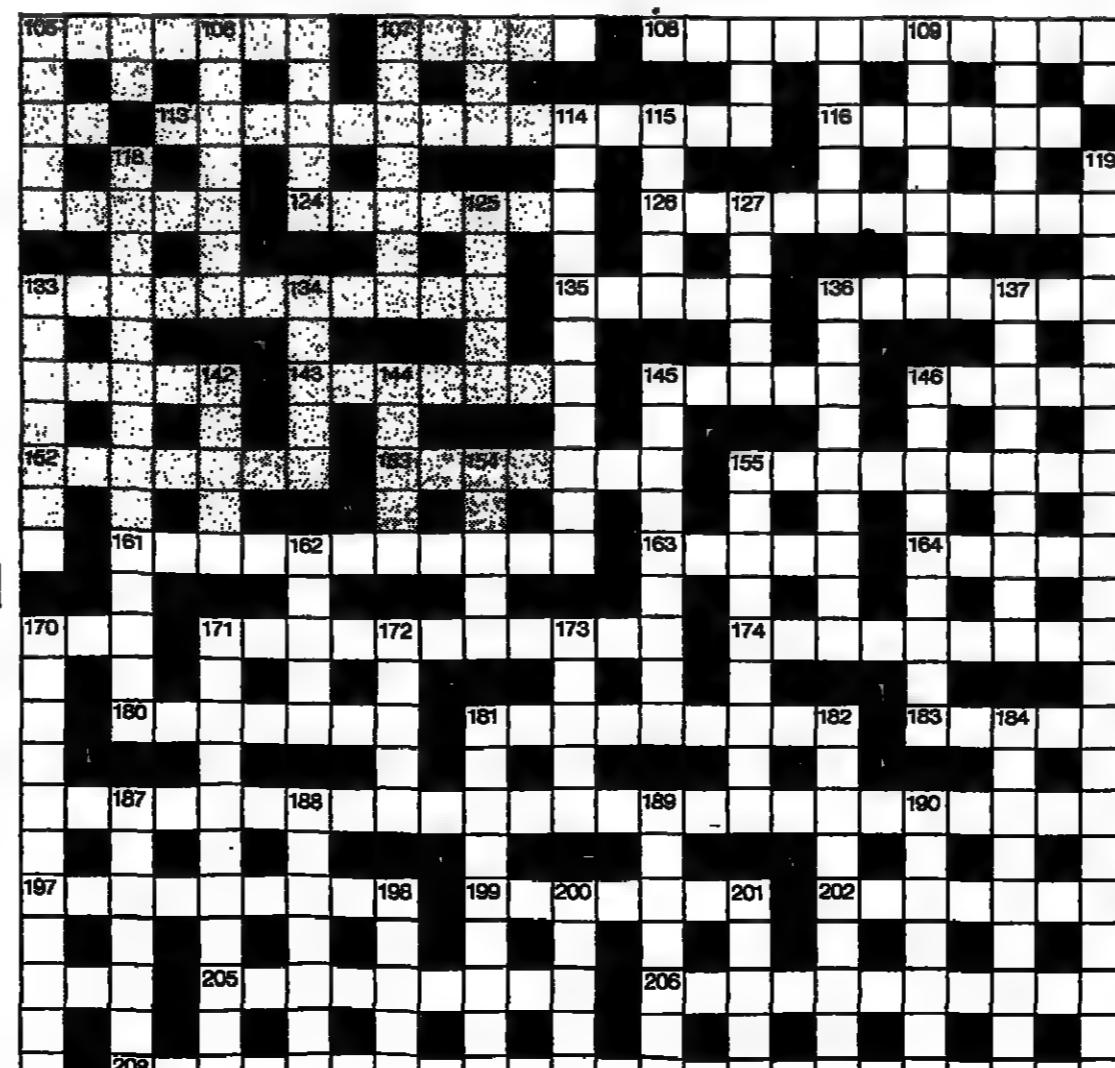
Tricky question, admitting sister to company party once;

Problem solver, running up and down in the country tea party; and

Fish swallows blue tit — difficult puzzle.

And, finally, there is the difficulty of the virtually unclueable word. Sometimes one can find it in a quotation, but that is a last resort, for any worthwhile quotation should spring to the setter's mind naturally, and not from a trawl through the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. But, having said this, I have to admit I know there are no quotations that include either epaulement or stampify, because I have been driven to look at the index.

John Grant



### THE CHALLENGE

© The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword has been devised to test the skill of solvers appearing throughout this week.

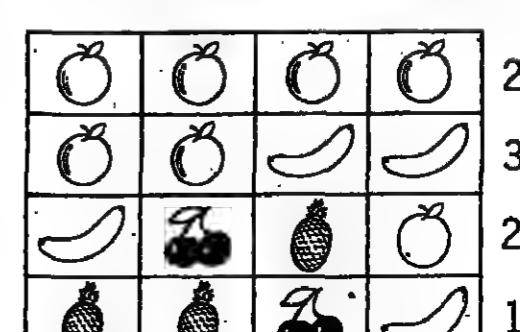
• On Saturday we will reprint the whole grid, together with the remaining multi-section clues. Entries should be filled in on the grid which is reprinted on Saturday.

• There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers; the winner will receive £1,000

and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Ross Travel and the *Times* Encyclopaedia Britannica in the limited edition book binding, and a matching copy of the *Britannica World Data Annual*. Each of the 10 runners-up will receive *The Times Atlas of the World*.

• Details of how to enter your solution, and the closing date, will be published on Saturday.

## COULD YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS FAST AS EINSTEIN?



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## THIS UNSPORTING LIFE

The two Welsh weightlifters disgraced at the Commonwealth Games for taking steroids, will receive scant public sympathy. They cheated. By doing so, they have damaged the Games, this country and their sport. This is especially sad because their reputation for good-natured competition has earned them the sobriquet "The Friendly Games". After all the political discord of recent years it looked as if this gathering in New Zealand might once more justify that pleasant title.

They have badly let down their compatriots from Wales, who have won a record basketful of medals and were contemplating a glorious homecoming. Indeed not only Wales but the whole of Britain will probably suffer, through appearing in international competition. That is hard on those who have not themselves transgressed. But their sport must shoulder some responsibility for its failure to eradicate the practice. It is only by taking draconian measures now that the authorities will stamp out the growing abuse.

Memories are still fresh of the 1988 Olympic Games at which the Canadian sprinter, Ben Johnson, was stripped of his gold medal after winning the 100 metres. The athlete was disgraced – yet banned for only two years from competitive running. Negotiations have begun for his return to the track this year for a reported "multi-million dollar" sprint against Carl Lewis – who was eventually given the gold medal in Seoul. A two-year ban with a small fortune at the end of it hardly sounds like an adequate deterrent.

In this respect one must commend the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association which will almost certainly ban Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives (the offenders in Auckland) for life. Weightlifters, more than any other sportsmen, are tempted to take body-building drugs. An Indian competitor has also been disqualified in Auckland, while an Englishman failed a drugs test last October while taking part in trials in this country. It is imperative

that the sport's own authorities convince competitors that the risk is not worthwhile.

Methods of detection have improved. By testing the medal winners in all events, plus a random selection of others taking part, the organizers should be able to catch out those who break the rules. But the numbers detected, though relatively small, suggest (as *The Times* has frequently maintained) that a much bigger problem lurks beneath the surface.

A partial answer may be the introduction of random out-of-competition testing, which will catch out those taking steroids during training. This would prevent them from being picked for their country in the first place. At approximately £100 a test, this is a costly burden for sports bodies. But the Sports Council will try out a regimen this year, which should act as a powerful deterrent in the future.

Even this, however, may not be enough. The use of muscle-building hormones has already spread beyond organized sports in Britain to a growing number of body-builders enthusiasts. An international black market has developed, with Britain being used as a staging post for traffickers.

Yet anabolic steroids when taken in large doses, without a medical prescription, can have disturbing side-effects. There is evidence that a number of sportsmen and body-builders have been taking them in quantities far beyond those medically prescribed for patients who are genuinely underweight or undernourished. There have been reports in the United States of people suffering paranoid delusions, increased aggression and violent outbursts, leading even to murder.

The Government needs to make possession of these drugs a criminal offence, as is the case in Norway and Sweden. The US Senate is now again considering legislation. Yet the Home Office in Britain is still hesitating, despite pressure from a number of politicians – including the Minister for Sport, Mr Colin Moynihan. Perhaps this latest evidence of abuse will persuade Whitehall to act quickly.

## A PLACE IN THE SUN

The general election campaign in Japan has already begun. The election, expected to be held on February 18, will be more bitterly fought than any in Japan's post-war history. For the first time, the hegemony of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is in doubt. Also for the first time, perhaps, the outcome is important not only to the Japanese but to the rest of the world.

The vote, after months of unprecedented national soul-searching, is likely to be close. Japan's political culture has been transformed by the series of domestic and international shocks since Hirohito's death a year ago. Japan's governing élite has been badly shaken.

The recruit influence-buying scandal led to the resignation of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the former prime minister who remains the LDP's power-broker. Then a public outcry over his association with a bar hostess forced his successor, Mr Sosuke Uno, from office.

Last May the United States branded Japan an unfair trader under the US Trade Act. Public discontent over a much-needed tax reform, which involved a 3 per cent consumer tax and the lowering of Japan's barriers against agricultural imports, underlined the increasing difficulty of reconciling economic liberalization with traditional domestic interests. The voters inflicted a crushing defeat on the LDP in elections to the Upper House last July. Japan's Socialist Party, led by the charismatic Mrs Takako Doi, suddenly became a real political force.

The LDP's leadership believes that public disgust with the penetration of politics by big business has subsided. Heavily supported by the Japanese business federation, the Keidanren, it is trying to capitalize on anxiety about the recent weakening of the yen.

Mrs Doi's party has failed to exploit last summer's triumph. It has failed to shed its Marxist baggage, its commitment to abolish

Japan's defence forces and its promise to abrogate the Japan-US security treaty. This failure has alienated other, more moderate opposition parties with which it might have formed a coalition. Even so, the LDP's majority in the Lower House is likely to be more modest than the present one of 295 seats.

Anger over the consumer tax has refused to die down: recent polls show nearly two-thirds of the electorate opposed to it, and the same proportion consider it the most important electoral issue. The Socialists used their power in the Upper House last month to pass a Bill abolishing it, which was later reversed by the LDP in the Lower House. They will seek to make the tax an issue across the country, and will also retrace voters' memories of the Recruit scandal.

If the LDP wins, it will be largely due to the growing popularity of the Prime Minister, Mr Toshiki Kaifu. Previously little known, Mr Kaifu had greatness thrust upon him last August by a leadership unable to find anybody else who was relatively untainted by either financial or sexual scandals. Mr Kaifu is unlikely to be left in office to enjoy the fruits of victory.

He was selected in part because, coming from the smallest of the LDP's factions, he could be cast aside once the crisis subsided. A decisive win might reprise him, but otherwise Mr Takeshita may force him to give way to a leading member of the party's old guard, Mr Shintaro Abe, who was also implicated in the Recruit scandal.

That would set back the rejuvenation of Japanese political life, which urgently needs to develop a modern, accountable system if it is to equip itself for a place in the world commensurate with its strength. Even more than fiscal reform, political accountability ought to be the overriding issue in this campaign.

## DOGGED DOES IT

Is Dr David Owen really necessary? Is there a role in the British parliamentary system for a politician of the centre with no visible means of support? The contribution which the leader of the Social Democratic Party made yesterday to a seminar at the Royal United Institute for Defence Studies suggests that the answer to both questions is yes.

His subject – Western European political and security perspectives – was loosely enough defined to allow him to roam freely over the landscape. The situation in Eastern Europe, the future of Nato, German reunification and the future of the European Community were all summoned into the surgery and subjected to brisk examination.

The SDP leader is impatient with those Western politicians and diplomats who argue that the break-up of the Warsaw Pact would complicate the CFE negotiations or devalue the CSCE process, arguing that the justification for signing the 1975 Helsinki Final Act was precisely that it would encourage movements like Charter 77 and protect manifestations of trade unionism like Solidarity.

Dr Owen is also critical of the Prime Minister's recent assertion that a strong German push for reunification would be no German push for reunification. In his view, it would be ill-conceived to grant the Soviet Union any *droit de regard* over German reunification. The idea, in present circumstances, of invoking the Four-Power Agreement over Berlin as a way of overriding what he regards as the absolute right of self-determination, he describes as "ridiculous".

His views about Mr Gorbachov are notably unsugary. It is, he says, "sheer folly" to regard him as one of nature's democrats as someone who needs to be rewarded for accepting the reality of the decline of the Soviet empire. Mr Gorbachov is still a communist, "and probably still the Leninist he repeatedly claims to be". (Dr Owen obviously does not intend this as a

compliment; perhaps he has forgotten that towards the end of his life Lenin wrote "every time you are faced with a choice between doctrine and reality, choose reality").

Dr Owen's message to Mr Gorbachov is that a common European home is alive and well and is called the European Community. He asserts flatly that the Soviet Union lost its economic claim to superpower status a decade ago. He overstates the extent to which its military status has been eroded, but he is sensitive to its security anxieties, and concedes that the most pressing of them relates to the military profile of a united Germany.

He believes that this would best be met by a declaration by Nato that if Germany were to become united, the alliance would no longer seek to deploy any forces from countries outside Europe on German soil. He urges, however, that this should be a Nato initiative, and he is adamant that there should be no concession to the Russians that there is any equivalence in the stationing of Soviet forces in Eastern Europe and US forces in Western Europe.

One of the traditional benefits of opposition is that it gives politicians a degree of leisure. Relieved of ministerial burdens, they can take a long view, reconsider some of their received opinions, challenge those of the Government and prepare for the time when the pendulum will swing them back into office. In the field of foreign affairs (and with the proviso exception of Mr Denis Healey) it is not something which the Labour Party is currently very good at.

Although it is fashionable to deride Dr Owen as a leader without a party, he still effortlessly upstages opposition leaders who have that advantage. Some of his ideas are better than others. By the standards of the present day, he expresses them in a manner that is notably unpartisan. In his dogged way, he is exercising an important function. He remains a substantial politician.

(Dr Owen obviously does not intend this as a

## Disbanding of a BBC 'big band'

*From Mr David Whitaker*

Sir, A performance by the BBC Radio Orchestra to be transmitted this week under my baton coincides with the sad news that the orchestra is to be disbanded (report, January 27). I will be but one of the millions who have enjoyed the excellence of its combined musicianship.

May I suggest an alternative to the governors rather than resort to the inevitable and archaic method of pruning away the musicians first when times are getting hard, they could combine the Radio Orchestra with the Concert Orchestra and create a new BBC Pops Orchestra which would eventually emerge as a world-class orchestra in this category, and second to none – the "pick of the pops".

By transmissions, public performances, and the sale of records, they will then compete with, and certainly get the better of, the Boston Pops and the millions of Reader's Digest albums which already exist.

There are several millions of listeners and buyers throughout Europe who will welcome the continuance of music in the lighter vein. The BBC, which has worldwide coverage and publicity at the throw of a switch, should apply these resources to maintaining its unparalleled supremacy in the field.

Yours etc,  
DAVID WHITAKER,  
Nether Barn, Nethercote Road,  
Tackley, Oxfordshire.

*From Mr Peter Seckings-Foster*

Sir, An amalgamation of the former Revue and Variety Orchestra of the 1940s, the BBC Radio Orchestra, having already seen the cost-cutting departures of three other BBC popular music orchestras in Scotland, Manchester, and the Midlands, has just celebrated its silver jubilee and appointed its first principal conductor in 10 years.

Under the popular leader, Michael Tomalin, and the baton of Iain Sutherland and an army of internationally-known guest conductors, the RO has been presenting four shows per week on the Radio 2 network, and recorded inserts into many other programmes. Subject to contractual obligations, it has also been in ever-increasing demand for public performances around the country: mostly "live" or recorded concerts for later broadcast transmission.

There can indeed be few orchestras of its type today whose versatility in concert is itself, regularly splitting itself into smaller units as necessary – not least among them the ever-popular BBC Big Band. It is as a part of the full Radio Orchestra aggregate that the Big Band's distinctive character should continue to entertain millions.

Yours faithfully,  
P. SEEKINGS-FOSTER,  
43 Stanway Road,  
Coventry, West Midlands.

## Dying in hospital

*From Mrs Sheila Dilks*

Sir, In reply to Marjorie Wallace's letter (January 20), I have worked in the NHS for 18 years. During that time I have never refused, or seen refused, a relative of a dying patient the right to stay overnight. I admit we do not often have a spare bed, but do offer the most comfortable chair!

Working practices can always be improved and I hope in the future we can extend this service. In the meanwhile I would reassure any future NHS patient that they need not die alone, at least at my bedside.

Yours faithfully,  
SHEILA DILKS,  
12 Caversham Close, Wimborne,  
Dorset.

*Condition reports*

*From Mr J. Quine*

Sir, When will hospitals find a more suitable adjective than "comfortable" to describe the condition of badly injured patients in their care?

Recent examples are an 88-year-old woman who was raped and lay for 24 hours on the floor of her home suffering from shock and hypothermia; a teenage boy who received multiple fractures in both legs in a car accident; and last night the same word was quoted by a radio newsreader concerning an 11-year-old girl savagely mauled by a bull terrier! Would not "recovering" be kinder and more accurate?

Yours faithfully,  
J. QUINE,  
The Little House, Spa Esplanade,  
Herne Bay, Kent.  
January 17.

## Hong Kong rights

*From Mr Norman Tebbit, CH, MP for Chingford (Conservative)*

Sir, Mr Moman's article in your edition of January 29 is a welcome and offensive rebuttal of a number of views which I have neither expressed nor held. However, as he should know, it is a fact that Britain was not a multi-cultural multi-racial society before the 1960s and the proposition to make it one was never put to the British electorate.

Approval of or disapproval of it as one may, it is simply impossible to reasonably claim that people here were ever asked to vote on it. What is more, I have made plain in word and deed that I entirely oppose unfair discrimination on grounds of colour or religion.

None the less in one important paragraph Mr Moman puts his

## Anomalies in test of parenthood

*From Dr R. G. D. Newill*

Sir, You report (January 22) that some Scottish peers are becoming alarmed lest the blue blood of Scottish aristocracy becomes contaminated with the red blood of semen donors. This alarm is based on the assumption that the father of a child born following donor insemination is always the donor of the semen.

This is not necessarily the case, since any man who is producing sperm, however few, could be the actual father of his child providing he is living with the child's mother. It is quite impossible to prove that he is not, since he cannot be compelled to submit to blood or other tests.

This applies equally to men who have been declared sterile on the strength of semen analysis. I have known of two couples, referred for artificial insemination by donor (AID) on the grounds of the husband's total sterility, where the husband has subsequently impregnated his wife and his fertility has been confirmed by myself.

It is normal practice for couples who have a child following AID to register the husband as the child's father. This practice is not necessarily dishonest, since he could well be the child's actual father.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT NEWILL,  
Fern Court, 39 Park Road,  
Aldeburgh, Suffolk.  
January 23.

*From Ms Jane Mellor*

Sir, It seems that Mrs Thatcher's speech at the National Children's Home (report, January 17) struck a positive note with a large section of the public when she addressed the complex issue of maintenance payments by absent fathers. If it not curious, then, that this same Government is at present negotiating a Bill through Parliament which will create the very situation that Mrs Thatcher is so eager to avoid?

The current Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill will, through clause 4(1)(b), allow women who are neither married nor co-habiting to become parents through artificial insemination using donated sperm (AID). In addition, clause 27 of the Bill says that the man who has donated sperm will not be considered as the father of the child (unless it is his wife who is inseminated).

The full impact of these clauses is that national resources may legally be used to encourage single parenthood and that the children born to single women in these circumstances statutorily would have no father. Cannot the Government see the financial and moral inconsistency of this aspect of the Bill?

Yours faithfully,  
JANE MELLOR (Research Officer,  
Care (Christian Action Research  
& Education),  
53 Romney Street, SW1.  
January 23.

## Ways of handling aggressive dogs

*From his Honour Michael Argyle, QC, and Mrs Argyle*

Sir, Of course no condolences can help the agonised and grieving parent of the little girl killed by Rotweilers. Nor (if it really be true) can anyone justify obscene messages from Rotweiler owners or description of the grave.

But the position is not helped by intemperate language or a policy of extermination, as proposed by Bernard Levin (January 29). Rotweilers are very strong and respond well to whatever training they receive.

Of course, some are obviously owned or handled by inadequate or irresponsible people, and it is to be recognised that a minority of them may act unpredictably. But our three daughters, as tiny children, loved and were loved by their grandmother's Rotweilers – one bitch and, later, one dog. Such cases are legion, but it seems impossible to get the media to recognise this.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ARGYLE  
(Vice-President, Midland  
Rottweiler Club),  
ANN ARGYLE (Immediate Past  
President),  
The Red House, Fiskerton,  
Nr Southwell, Nottinghamshire.  
January 30.

*From the Chairman of the London Boroughs Association*

Sir, No sensible person – and I include even the most fervent dog lover – could argue with Bernard Levin's conclusions on the need for some form of legislation to control potentially dangerous dogs.

The London Boroughs Association has proposed that the Government should take advantage of the impending review of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 to include such "pets" as Rotweilers, pit bull terriers, and other dogs which are clearly bred for their strength and aggression. Under these proposals, the breeding, selling, and owning of specific categories of dogs would be restricted to licence-holders, with local authorities having the right to refuse licences to anyone considered unsuitable.

It is imperative that new legislation to control aggressive dogs is brought in quickly in the light of the Government's failure to introduce a nationwide dog registration scheme, with a realistic licence fee, as argued for by the RSPCA, ourselves, and many other organisations.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BOWNESS, Chairman,  
London Boroughs Association,  
23 Buckingham Gate, SW1.  
January 29.

## Homes without TV

*From Mr Alan Essex-Crosby*

Sir, The outbreak of bumbledom in Durham described by Mr Gerald Bonner (January 22) inspired by his refusal to complete and return an enquiry form issued from the Bristol computer does not surprise me. Over almost 20 years I have been receiving forms asking why I have no TV licence, with visits from inspectors. They hunt after dark like the dustbin

On the last occasion I sent a copy of the form (which I had completed and returned) to my MP. I made then a suggestion that the burden of chasing TV defaulters should be put on the TV trade explaining how this could be done.

My letter having been passed on to the Minister of State, Home Office, in due course I received a copy of his reply explaining that











## THE ARTS/FILM

David Robinson reviews the Chet Baker biopic *Let's Get Lost*, *Sur, Far North* and *Lockup*, and previews a season of pre-Revolutionary Russian films

# Till he blew himself away

The first few minutes of Bruce Weber's *Let's Get Lost* (15, Metro) are not encouraging. The dislocated images, framic camera movement, grainy black and white images and self-conscious compositions promise a photographers' film — and Weber is, after all, a world-class photographer.

Bit by bit, though, it becomes apparent that these fragments are elements in a collage, whose design becomes clearer as the film goes on. When the last piece (which is in fact one of these first puzzling images) finally falls into place, there is the intense satisfaction of filling the last hole in a jigsaw puzzle. We have our complete picture, which is a portrait in depth of the jazz trumpeter Chet Baker.

Baker was born in Oklahoma in 1929, taught himself trumpet (he never learned to read music) and at 24, after getting himself discharged from the army on psychiatric grounds, was playing with top jazz musicians such as Charlie Parker and Gerry Mulligan.

He was dazzlingly handsome, in the short-haired, baby-faced style of the Fifties. His looks and the deep dark eyes, expressing both hurt and burning ardour, made him a natural romantic idol for the James Dean era. Apart from his trumpet, he had a soft, seductive singing voice. He was featured in a few films; an awful sex-drugs-and-music melodrama, *All The Fine Young Cannibals*, was partly based on his life, and he had a brief acting career in Italian films.

In later life he was ravaged by drugs, and in the late Sixties his musical career was interrupted when he lost all his teeth in a brawl. He was eventually able to perform again, but died mysteriously in 1987, falling from the window of a hotel room in Amsterdam. My colleague Clive Davis, elsewhere on this page, traces the story from the jazz writer's viewpoint.

Bruce Weber became fascinated — as most people who knew Baker were — during the last year of the musician's life. Baker's

unpredictable habits made shooting difficult; but Weber followed him doggedly, filming his last recorded sessions and constant interviews. Baker's face is ruinous, with sunken cheeks and deep furrows; and he moves and speaks as if in a trance, slowly and painfully groping for thoughts and words.

Somehow his musical gift has survived, more or less intact and the deep eyes still protest sincerity — quite mendaciously, as we gradually discover. He tells, with feeling, the story of losing his teeth; moments later, one of his mistresses warns us that his version, like much else, is likely to be quite untrue.

Weber has caught some extraordinary revelations. Baker's desperate effort to dredge up from his fogged mind some knowledge of his own children; the moment when his mistress discovers that the gift from Baker that she has most treasured — the film rights in his life — has been prodigally given to Weber as well. There is a more disquieting episode when Baker's widow begs Weber not to use her unguarded comment on a mistress he has done so just to the same.

Even as Weber's film strips bare the pitifully frail and destructive personality of this gifted man, the spectator's sympathy for him grows, against all probability. The fragmented but dramatic narrative of this skilfully structured documentary recalls Clint Eastwood's dramatized biography of Baker's one-time colleague Charlie Parker, *Bird*. There is an odd link: when Parker died at 35 the doctors guessed his age as 60; when Baker died at 58 the Dutch police described him, despite his ruined face, as "a man of 30, with a trumpet".

**Musical fantasy, an elegy and an exercise in brutality**

**A**s in *Let's Get Lost*, collage is also the method of Fernando Solanas's *Sur (South)* (15, Cannon/Premiere), which won him the prize for best direction at the Cannes Festival. As a musical-fantasy essay on recent Argentinian history, it is a sequel to Solanas's earlier *Zongo*. *Zongo* dealt with Argentinians in exile in France in the Seventies; *Sur* is about the return from prison of a victim of the military dictatorship.

Again the musical basis is a melancholy, evocative Argentine tango, sung breathily but confidently by the veteran Roberto Goyeneche. The style is all theatrical/craftifice, with most scenes set in night streets, photographed in predominant blue, with drifting smoke, and papers — symbolizing perhaps the printed denials of the election that preceded the fall of the Generals — that swirl about the feet of the actors.

The hero has emerged from



Someone to lean on: Chet Baker enjoying the support of his wife Liliane in Bruce Weber's *Let's Get Lost*

prison, but hesitates to return to the wife who was unfaithful during his absence. As he wanders the night town, he meets people from his past, both the living and the ghosts. A lot of the dialogues and memories in this overlong, two-hour film are likely to be elusive for British audiences, but the songs and choreography are intriguing to watch. There are some fine and often comic fantasy sequences, such as the library where, like a fiesty, civil servants read off the titles of books and films while a chorus responds with the grounds ("Marxist", "pornographic", "subversive") on which the words of Freud, St Exupéry and Solanas himself are to be forbidden.

The actor-playwright Sam Shepard wrote *Paris, Texas* for Wim Wenders, and the play *Fool for Love*, which Robert Altman filmed. But for his own directional debut, *Far North* (12, Cannon, Tottenham Court Road), his

script is an odd, whimsical and quite unconvincing piece of Americana. Charles Durning (over-playing, unusually) is a Minnesota veteran of two wars, who is hospitalized by a runaway horse, and irrationally vows vengeance on the poor animal.

His demand that his favourite, town-dweller daughter should shoot the horse, a family pet, causes crisis in his all-female household, consisting of his spaced-out wife, country-bred daughter, trolley grand-daughter and crotchety mother-in-law who unwillingly celebrates her 100th birthday while Durning decides the fate of the horse. The dialogue, as might be expected, is bright; there are some ambitious devices; but the characters go no deeper than a series comedy.

*Lock Up* (18, Cannons/Haymarket, Oxford Street, Chelsea) is an almost abstract exercise in sadism — abstract in the sense that the story that justifies the

non-stop brutality is almost nonexistent. Sylvester Stallone is (as usual) serving time despite his unquestionable innocence. He is snatched from his prison cell, with its Paul Klee posters on the wall, to be taken off to a nightmare establishment whose warden (Donald Sutherland) sets out to work off an old grudge, with every physical brutality the dull minds of the writers can think up. The director of this orgy of beating, kicking, electrocution, drowning and insult was John Flynn.

Next week the National Film Theatre begins a season of the rediscovered films from the last years of Imperial Russia, which I wrote about on their first appearance at the Portobello Film Festival last year. It is a rare chance to see films that have been hidden for more than 70 years.

Russian cinema audiences, unlike those in English-speaking countries at the time, tended to be drawn from the literate bourgeoisie; and the films reflect the tastes of an audience in the throes of enthusiasm for Symbolist literature and Art Nouveau. They thrived to tales of mystery and occult, of necrophilia and beautiful *femmes fatales*.

The film-makers shunned the rapid American style of montage, and relied rather on sophisticated acting and highly developed techniques of lighting and arrangement within the shot. The great actors of the years before the 1917 Revolution, such as Ivan Mosjoukine, Vera Karalli and Vera Kholodnaya, still measure.

And the season reveals one director of real genius, Evgenii Bauer, who would certainly have given a quite different direction to Soviet cinema if he had not died in 1917. Resuscitated at last, Bauer's extraordinary visionary invention, dramatic skill and psychological perception add a significant new name and a new chapter to film history.

## No exclusive rights to drug addiction

Clive Davis, jazz critic of *The Times*, on the truly tragic story of trumpeter Chet Baker

**C**het Baker's place in the jazz pantheon would have been secured long ago if he had had the sense to follow Bix Beiderbecke's example, and die before he was 30. As it is, he lived another three decades, long enough to see his legend assailed by heroin and the changing winds of fashion.

After all his restless wanderings around Europe and America, his reputation rests mainly on a handful of recordings from the early Fifties. "His experience," the American critic Nat Hentoff once noted, "is that of the young novelist who writes one or two books that last, and spends the rest of his career wondering why it never happened again."

Hentoff was writing in 1973. By that time, Baker had edged back towards regular touring, his drug problem momentarily kept at bay with methadone. At the time of his death, he was still playing music of extraordinary beauty. On his last visits to Ronnie Scott's, the sight of him perched on a stool, focusing all his strength on a ballad, was almost unbearably poignant.

When he was on form, the sound that emerged transcended all his physical frailties.

Once the epitome of wide-eyed, mid-Western youth, Chesney Baker first attracted attention in 1952, at the age of 22, when he joined Charlie Parker's band during one of the alchemist's visits to Los Angeles. The real turning point, however, came when he linked up with the baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan, on a series of dates at a bar called The Haig.

Like so many jazz milestones, the birth of the famous Baker-Mulligan quartet arose in part from pure chance. The Haig's owner had put the venue's piano in storage while playing host to the trio of the vibraphone player Red Norvo. With no piano to set the tonal centre, Mulligan was free to develop a contrapuntal style for saxophone, trumpet and bass. Baker, a technically limited performer, who played by ear, immediately rose to the challenge.

The group's spare and buoyant sound helped define what has become known as "West Coast Jazz", a reaction against the frenetic tempo of New York-based bebop. A haunting trumpet-led version of "My Funny Valentine" brought huge commercial success, and within a matter of months Baker was tempted to embark on a solo career, making use of his dubious singing voice. His early albums were by no means as empty as some detractors suggest, but they seriously re-kindled the chemistry of the Mulligan quartet.

By the end of the Fifties he had begun the long decline into drug addiction, marked by a depressing cycle of arrests and flurries of inspiration in the studio. After a severe beating by drug dealers raised his embouchure, he was forced to stop playing altogether for nearly three years, scraping a living by working at a petrol station.

His commercial appeal always made him suspect in some jazz



Near the end: Chet Baker in 1987 ravaged by drugs. Arduous working conditions, the "outsider" status of bebop and the creative demands on players all contributed to the phenomenon. Miles Davis's autobiography, due out next month, is a reminder of how many substances some musicians managed to consume. One of the reasons that the Mulligan-Baker quartet broke up, in fact, was that Mulligan was removed from the scene due to a 90-day sentence for possession of narcotics. Baker, sadly, was no lone misfit.

## How to project your reel self

**G**eoff Brown advises aspiring film-makers and anyone who is interested in cinema to visit *Expo 90*, a festival of student films opening in London tomorrow

**I**t is simple enough to learn your trade as a novelist or playwright: you live, you suck the end of your pencil, and you write. The difficulty comes in surviving financially. But what if the goal is to create feature films? This involves lights, cameras, sound equipment, an editing bench, laboratory costs. Unless one intends going the avant-garde route — making studies in the contemplation of one's novel — it also requires co-workers: actors, technicians, clapper boys, and all the other flora and fauna listed in a film's screw of credits.

One way to take the plunge would be to attend BP Expo 90, an eight-day festival sponsored by British Petroleum, beginning tomorrow in London at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith (box office: 01-748 3354). For the second year running, the event gathers together the cream of international student films and video. There are trade stands, seminars on all aspects of the industry, and visits from assorted luminaries. Some brave souls will be bringing work from their own film school days, including Iwvan Szabo from Hungary, Canada's Atom Egoyan, and Shaji Karim, the Indian director of *Piravi*.

The youngest directors dipping into their past are a talented Scottish duo from the National Film and Television School Ian Seller, who directed last year's fitting *Venus Peter*, and Gillies MacKinnon, whose brilliant first feature, *Conquest of the North Pole*, awaits commercial release. Both their graduation films deal with deaths in the family: student film-makers like to demonstrate they are serious. Seller's *Albert's Memorial*, made in 1985, is a neatly mounted tale of a working-class widow coming to terms with herself and her late Albert; though it is MacKinnon's 1986 film *Passing Glory* — a poignant drama about the death of a feisty Communist grandmother — that impresses most with its confidence and passion.

Yet whatever the achievement, directors' first efforts are always a

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### VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**DAD'S ARMY** (Parkfield, U): Largely forgettable cinema spin-off from the drill TV series, with lively performances from the Home Guard troop and adroit period atmospheres. 1971.

**THE DEADLY AFFAIR** (Parkfield, 15): John le Carré's thriller *Call for the Dead*, expertly filmed against deliberately drab London backgrounds by director Sidney Lumet. James Mason is the Foreign Office chap who stumbles on a spy ring. 1957.

**DO THE RIGHT THING** (CIC, 18): Spike Lee's militant entertainment about racial tension on a boiling hot day in Brooklyn — a chain of sharp vignettes culminating in a full-scale street riot with Danny Aiello as the Italian-American pizza parlour owner marooned in a black neighbourhood; and Lee himself as his black delivery boy. 1989.

**NOSFERATU** (CBS/Fox, 15): The shadow of Murnau's silent

classic hangs heavy over Werner Herzog's treatment of the Dracula story. Frequently misjudged, but the striking moments ultimately win, and Klaus Kinski makes a memorably cadaverous blunder.

**PELLEGRINA CAVALCHI** (CBS/Fox, 18): Open but morose treatment of the libertine's life and loves (a mechanistic doll among them), with Donald Sutherland. Not one of Fellini's more persuasive extravaganzas. 1976.

**THE GREEN MAN** (Warner, U): Delightful farcical thriller from the Lauder-Gilliat team, with George Cole as a vacuum-cleaner salesman who accidentally thwart Alastair Sim's assassination plans. 1956.

**KAGEMUSHA** (CBS/Fox, PG): Kurosawa's majestic drama from 1980, centred on the fate of a thief groomed as the double of a 16th-century warlord. Overwhelming in the cinema, though it inevitably shrivels on video.

**RAM** (CBS/Fox, 15): King Lear seen through Kurosawa's visionary eyes, with Tatsuya Nakadai as an old, cold, crumbling universe. Grandiose drama with battles, apocalyptic sights, and excellent music by Toru Takemitsu. 1986.

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TEMPUS

# WH Smith's wounds only superficial

WH Smith's interim results do not make the best selling lists. They show the burden of higher interest rates — relief from which is some way off — and a 16 per cent fall in pre-tax profit from £41.8 million to £35.1 million.

It is Smith's first downturn for some time, and immediate market reaction yesterday was to knock the shares down from 321½ p to 300 p. They later recovered to 317 p.

But bear in mind that latest interim results cover 26 weeks to December 2 against 27 weeks, and the conclusion must be that the company, chaired by Sir Simon Hornby, has performed surprisingly well within its core business. Also, there were no property profits (£2.4 million previously) to fatten.

At the trading level, profits from continuing businesses rose 18.9 per cent (on a like-for-like basis) or by 13 per cent to £47 million as advertised.

News, books, and stationery were strong, although a slowdown in DIY cheered Do It All operations, and a higher investment spend on television interests saw trading losses from TV services rise from £1.8 million to £3.2 million.

The run in the interest charge from 26.5 million to £11.8 million for the half-year — against a charge of £11 million for all of the previous 12 months — reflects high borrowings and the level of

rates. Interest cover at 4.5 times should rise above 5 times come the year-end.

After a period of chopping and changing, Smith now looks set to consolidate and build on its trading blocks. New store design has worked, a certain percentage of distribution business has recently been won again from News International, television interests in time will bring their rewards. Christmas trading was good and a property revaluation is due at the year-end.

If the worst of the High Street winds continue to pass WH Smith, by then year-end pre-tax profits of £90 million (£84.1 million) should be within reach. So if Smith can convince the market that it will not be stepping on any banana skins, then the shares on a prospective p/e of 10.7 stand every chance of being re-rated.

Allied Textile Companies is a most unusual animal. Not only has it survived a period of great turmoil in the textile industry, it has prospered while stocks in more glamorous sectors such as electronics have been floundering. Remarkably, it sustained annual increases of 15 per cent in both earnings per share and dividends throughout the Eighties,



Sir Simon Hornby, WH Smith chairman: £11.8m interest bill

either.

It launched a £21.3 million offer for the carpet-maker Hugh Mackay towards the end of 1988, but withdrew when it became clear that Mackay's profits were not going to meet market expectations.

Last month it made a renewed — and agreed — bid at a third of the price.

Acquisitions have been crucial in repositioning Allied away from the more competitive areas of the traditional

Huddersfield worsted trade. The purchase of Mayfield in 1985 took it into synthetic textiles and Bulmer & Lumb, bought in 1987, broadened it into tapestries. Including Mackay, these "new" businesses will account for nearly two thirds of Allied's sales.

The industry-wide slowdown left profits only 12 per cent ahead at £13.3 million and earnings just 8 per cent higher at 34p last year. With Mackay on board, Allied will do well to meet analysts' forecasts of £14 million and 35p this time, for a p/e ratio of 10 at 364p. There may be a dull spell ahead, but the shares are excellent value on a long-term view.

Profits of £1.2 million on £52 million of sales were swamped by £1.83 million of exceptional and £3.6 million below the line for closure of a lossmaking Swiss joint venture. A £2 million post-tax loss thus became a £5.6 million hole in the balance sheet.

Its defence businesses are being groomed for sale and might raise £15 million, but not much before the end of 1990. That leaves sound businesses in communications, instrumentation and software systems. Their £100 million of sales might generate 28 million of pre-interest profit, but much of this will initially go to Cray's bankers.

The balance sheet, currently with £40 million of debt against £26 million of net assets, will take time to repair. Expect losses of around £5.5 million this year and profits of perhaps £3 million next. The shares are high enough.

## Cray Electronics

The new management team at Cray Electronics has lots of hard pounding to do before the shares can be assessed on normal investment criteria. At 61p, they offer little value alone for a loss-making company that will struggle to emerge with perhaps 3p of earnings by the end of next financial year.

But the trio now at the helm have a spectacular record of success at UEL, bought by Carlton Communications last year. They can probably make a go of turning Cray round and encouraging its core businesses to blossom. But first,

their attention will be devoted to surgery.

Cray shattered shareholders last year with revelations that previous profits were less than £1 million rather than the £17 million reported. Shortly after, the former UEL team replaced the old guard.

Yesterday's interim profits cover a period before these changes and are therefore largely academic, except for the exceptional and extraordinary charges made to clean up the business.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Platignum seeks buys after reducing loans

Platignum, the stationery, furniture and housewares group, is on the lookout for acquisitions. It has managed to cut borrowings from £4 million at March 31, 1989, to £3.3 million at September 30 — and to £2.1 million today. The group, now under new management, says that it is taking legal action in relation to its May, 1989, profit forecast, "founded on information subsequently proven to be materially incorrect."

The new team reports a pre-tax profit of £209,000 for the six months to September 30 on turnover of £11.2 million. However, it says: "Any comparison with the unaudited figures for the six months to July 31, 1988, should be treated with extreme caution, as these bore little relation to the audited figures for the 14 months to March 31, 1989." For purposes of legal comparison, Platignum shows a pre-tax loss of £129,000 for the six months to July 31, 1988.

### Expansion for Verson

Verson International, the West Midlands metal-forming machinery maker, has acquired Metform Engineers for £1.7 million. Verson received 4.25 million new ordinary 10p shares, of which 750,000 are retained; £5.5 million will be placed at 37p per share. Mr Tim Kelleher, Verson chairman and managing director, owns 38 per cent of capital.

### Micrelec call funds buy

Micrelec Group, maker of petrochemical equipment, is buying CCF Automation and Gwendolen Holdings for £1.77 million, via a 1-for-4 rights issue of 2.55 million ordinary 10p shares at 130p a share. The balance of the £13 million issue, underwritten by County NatWest Wood Mackenzie, will be used for working capital. The USM shares fell 3p to 150p.

### SM&E slides into red

Sanderson Murray & Elder (Holdings), the textile group subject to a £3.3 million takeover bid from Mr Tony Brannan, its 45 per cent shareholder, made a £149,000 loss (£36,000 profit) in the six months to December. Sales fell to £2.19 million (£2.64 million) and the loss per share is 7.8p (1.6p earnings). There is no interim dividend.

The company said its activities had come under increasing pressure and the levels of orders had worsened in the more difficult trading conditions since July last year. The offer document, bidding 175p a share in cash, was posted to shareholders yesterday. The shares fell 2p to 203p.

### Courtyard's £10,000

### CMA leaps 29% to £1.6m

Courtyard Leisure, the City wise bar operator which joined the Third Market in December, reports pre-tax profits of £10,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover of £495,000. Earnings per share are 0.16p. There is no interim dividend. Pre-tax profit were £94,000 in the year to end-March 1989 on turnover of £529,000.

**Mercury joins Ermes**

Mercury Paging, the joint Mercury Communications and Motorola venture, is to join the pan-European radiopaging network Ermes — the European Radio Messaging System, set to launch in 1992. It will cover the whole of Europe, parts of Scandinavia, through to Turkey.

The company, which now has 40,000 subscribers since its launch two years ago, has been conspicuously absent from the push to expand European paging networks. Mercury Paging is not part of Ermessense, the network which will allow limited Continental paging between Britain, France and Germany.

### Dangers of banks on the cheap

Setting up a bank can cost as little as £4,460, a Family Money investigation has revealed.

And clients can end up heavily out of pocket when high interest rates for savers fail to be paid or loans do not materialize after an arrangement fee has been handed over.

**THE TIMES STOCK WATCH**  
ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

Details are included in seven pages of Family Money on Saturday.

Also, a change of approach is advised for investment trusts; three families tell how they built their own homes with help from building societies; and the bonuses being offered to members of three societies are explained.

### Optical and Medical up to £3.6m

**THE TIMES STOCK WATCH**  
0898 141 141

• The Times Stockwatch service gives our readers instant access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds. The information can be found by dialling the following telephone numbers:

• Stock market comment: The general situation in the stock market can be found by ringing 0898 121220. Items of company news are available by dialling 0898 121221, while the prices of shares that are actively trading in the market may be found by ringing 0898 121222.

• Telephone calls are charged at a rate of 38p per minute in peak times and at 25p per minute at standard times. All charges are inclusive of Value Added Tax.

### RECENT ISSUES

#### EQUITIES

Autumn Trail (100p)	452	GU	888	LSD	2,177	Stoc H	7.18
Anglo French	785	Courtaulds	1,024	Lloyd's	676	Stoc P	6.64
Anglo Scan Inv Trs	78	Ecotec	435	Lorraine	576	Stoc P	5.10
Blocire (42p)	4,285	EEC	2,641	Lyons	759	Stoc P	11.15
Coate Ins	51	Enterprise	545	Macmillan	603	Stoc P	1.95
Chitton Radio (210p)	212	Fisons	918	MB Group	4,204	Stoc P	2.25
Clydene	212	FRI	1,088	McDonald	918	Stoc P	1.18
Courtland Lats (27p)	17	GEC Acc	753	Midland	1,280	Stoc P	2.20
East Surrey Water	114	Globe	988	Nat West	6,541	STC	1.18
Euromarco	34	Globe Inv	988	New	2,200	Stoc P	2.20
Festowden	125	Grand Met	2,244	Pearson	71	Stoc P	1.18
First Philip (50p)	40	GUS 'A'	113	Pilkington	370	T & H	1.07
Flamek Emuls Pacific	100	H&S	1,132	Prudential	2,703	T & H	2.05
Grosvenor (100p)	100	Hawthorn	4,435	Recal	5,335	Tate & Lyle	4.27
Image Store (35p)	100	CHN	1,474	Racial Tele	652	Taylor Wood	3.574
Lon & New York (100p)	100	Convergans	949	Raven	758	TSB	1.18
Malaysian Energ	100	Harmon 'A'	51	Hays	468	Thorn EM	1.95
(Issue price in brackets).	650	Hawker	7,228	Hewlett Pack	85	Thomson	2.05

#### RIGHTS ISSUES

Cook (Wmshp)	40	Imperial	988	Trident	465	T & H	0.82
Medeva N/P	100	Point	1,000	Unilever	287	T & H	1.13
Platignum Mining N/P	100	Polymer	1,000	United Bisc	287	T & H	1.13
Rank N/P	100	Portuguese	1,000	United Elec	2,021	T & H	2.02
(Issue price in brackets).	650	Reforma 'B'	1,000	Whitbread	1,021	T & H	1.02

### ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT	452	GU	888	LSD
Aldrey Nat	864	Cookson	1,024	Stoc H
AM-Lyons	785	Courtaulds	1,024	Stoc P
Amoco	4,285	Ecotec	2,641	Stoc P
AB Foods	376	Enterprise	545	Stoc P
AVCO	2,137	Fisons	918	Stoc P
BAA	1,237	FRI	1,088	Stoc P
BET</td				

# Shake-up by AmEx after Cohen's exit at Shearson

By Neil Bennett and James Boos

The American Express Company has radically shaken up Shearson Lehman Hutton, its 61 per cent securities subsidiary, in an attempt to halt its tumbling share price.

Mr Peter Cohen, Shearson's president and the man who transformed the company into one of the US's largest securities groups, resigned on Tuesday night after a row with Mr James Robinson III, AmEx's chairman.

He is being replaced by Mr Howard Clark, AmEx's chief financial officer.

At the same time, Shearson has announced it is cancelling its planned 20 million share offer, and replacing it with a 21 million share rights issue which will be fully underwritten by AmEx.

Last week, Shearson's shares fell to a low of \$10½ amidst fears on Wall Street that the company's share offer

would not succeed. Shearson has been forced to raise an extra \$850 million (£505 million) capital, of which the offer was a part, after being threatened with a credit downgrading by Moody's, the rating agency.

The downgrading would have taken Shearson from A to B Grade, and cost it up to \$40 million a year in higher interest charges.

News of Mr Cohen's departure and the rights issue helped Shearson's shares stage a recovery to \$11½ yesterday.

After the rights, AmEx will reduce its stake in Shearson to 45 per cent, via a special dividend of up to 23 million Shearson shares to AmEx shareholders, allowing AmEx to take the firm's debt off its balance sheet.

The departure of Mr Cohen is a body blow to a one-time wonderkind of Wall Street. He became president and chief

executive of Shearson in 1983, two years after Shearson Loeb Rhodes was acquired by American Express, and became chairman when it took over Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb in 1984.

But it was the \$960 million merger with EF Hutton, the largest deal in the US securities industry, that established Mr Cohen's pre-eminence.

Since then Shearson has fallen victim to the overcapacity problems that face all major US securities firms.

The moral of this story is that in order to successfully run a people business you must have a leader at the top who everyone can respect and that leader must have humility and respect relative to the people who work with him," said Mr Perrin Long, a veteran analyst of the securities industry at Lipper Analytical Services. "I don't think Peter

Cohen ever had that. "Maybe the long-term repercussions are quite favourable for Shearson, given that American Express now has the ability to move the firm in any direction it wants," he said.

"My guess is it will move Shearson back to the Shearson of old where it concentrated on retail brokerage."

Mr Cohen will retain the title of chairman until he is replaced in March by Mr Warren Hellman, a partner in Hellman & Friedman, the California investment group, who recently agreed to invest \$75 million in Shearson.

Mr Hellman will serve in a part-time, non-executive capacity.

A Shearson spokesman said Mr Clark was committed to maintaining all parts of the business, including its large London operation which employs more than 1,100.

## Summer blues for Colorvision



Expanding Colorvision's chain of stores: Neville Michaelson, second right, Colorvision's chairman, with, from left, Nigel Eton, finance director, and Bernard Michaelson, a director

Colorvision has felt the effects of stiffer competition in the television and video recording market and seen pre-tax profits drop 7.7 per cent to £3.4 million for the year ending September (See Parkhouse writes).

Mr Neville Michaelson, the chairman, says that the exceptionality has summer and the

Government's policy of discouraging consumer spending led to slackening sales throughout the industry.

Colorvision, which still managed to dominate in the North-east, experienced a 1 per cent drop in profit margins.

Mr Michaelson says that people became wary of buying

satellite television dishes because of a fear that they might be rendered obsolete when British Satellite Broadcasting joins Sky as a programme provider.

Mr Michaelson said that the rise in turnover, to £23.59 million from £24.58 million, was almost entirely due to an increase in the number of

stores, from 44 to 59 in the year. Since the year-end, a further 10 have opened. Colorvision hopes to have a 20 per cent market share throughout the country eventually.

The year's dividend rises 12.9 per cent via a final of 2.5p, making 4.5p, on earnings per share down 7.8 per cent to 10.6p.

**Optical and Medical up to £3.6m**

By Sam Parkhouse

Strong civil aerospace orders helped Optical and Medical to a 5 per cent pre-tax profits growth to £3.6 million in the six months to September.

Aeroplane fuselage and structural design activity enjoyed good demand, and accounted for more than 30 per cent of the turnover of £23.8 million (£27.7 million).

Omitron Instrumentation, which serves the main car manufacturers, has expanded to meet growing demand in the field of hand-held diagnostic equipment.

The interim dividend is lifted from 1.65p to 1.75p on earnings per share of 5.2p (5p).

The shares were unchanged at 112p.

## Peking near deal on HK Telecom

From Luis Yu, Hong Kong

A complex deal by Peking's China International Trust and Investment Corp (Citic) to finance its purchase of 20 per cent of Hong Kong Telecomcommunications is expected to be finalized by next week.

The arrangement involves HK\$7 billion (£532 million) in bank loans, and the issue of Hong Kong Telecom warrants to raise another HK\$1 billion.

Citic is buying from Cable and Wireless, which owns 76 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom for about HK\$10 billion. If successful, the deal will be the largest ever Chinese investment in the colony.

Mr John Sunderland, head of Barclays' merchant banking division in Hong Kong, said that response from Japan had been "extremely positive".

Hong Kong Telecom's capitalization is about 10 per cent of the colony's stock market.

Burton wins court battle with Revenue

By Gillian Bowditch

Burton Group has won its High Court battle with the Inland Revenue over its controversial share option scheme. This means that the scheme will continue to have Revenue approval for tax purposes.

The Revenue challenged the Burton scheme because of the flexibility of the targets it set in senior managers. The Revenue told the court that it objected to any provision which enabled the company to impose a task or vary an existing task after the option had been granted.

Burton argued its scheme would become a lottery if it had to set targets three years in advance.

## Master and pupil

A one-time lecturer and one of his students will be reunited at Cresvalle, the Hays Wharf market-makers in equity-related securities - best known for Japanese warrants and convertibles - when Kevin Connolly joins the firm on Monday. Connolly, aged 41, has resigned as head of quantitative research at James Capel - in 1988 he set up its options, futures and warrants department in Sydney, Australia - to become head of futures and options sales and trading at Cresvalle. He will be rubbing shoulders with George Phillips, aged 25, to whom he taught econometrics and forecasting at the City of London Polytechnic, in Moorgate. Connolly and Phillips worked together at Capel, where they earned a reputation for being workaholics, often working in 30-hour shifts to follow the Japanese market. The appointment of Connolly, who has no fewer than three degrees and a PhD - his thesis was a multi-variate study of the distribution of commodity futures prices with a view to constructing portfolio trading rules - will mean Cresvalle's first move into the futures and options market. The firm is also diversifying into fund management, with Lester Peich, from Target Investment Management, becoming the founding managing director of Cresvalle International Asset Management. Although Cresvalle refuses to pass comment, market sources conclude that the launch of a warrant fund cannot be far away.

## Holy not crude

After the revelation in the City Diary of BP's new London office, complete with its own chapel, the Rev Bernard Croft writes from York to recount the tale of two bishops walking from St Pancras station towards Russell Square. Upon passing the parish church with its portico and canopies one remarked to the other: "We often wondered who those women are on that church porch." "Why," came the reply, "don't you know, they are the five foolish virgins" (of St Matthew, chapter 25). "But," said the first, "there are only four of them." "That's right," his companion replied, "one's away for the oil."

● Sign on the rear door of a baker's delivery van: "Please don't bump me - you'll bruise my buns."

● The manager of a small manufacturing firm in Switzerland received a memo from his boss. It read: "You have been working very hard for the company in the past 12 months, and I would like to give you this cheque (for £1,000). If you perform well this year, I will sign it."

Carol Leonard

## ASC set to provoke storm on goodwill

By Graham Seargent

The Accounting Standards Committee is set to unleash a further storm in the profession, and among finance directors, this morning when it issues its revised proposals on the treatment of goodwill on acquisitions in company balance sheets.

In conjunction with a second exposure draft on mergers and acquisitions, it is expected to require acquiring companies to write off goodwill in equal annual instalments from profits, usually over 20 years.

Most companies at present use the option of writing the whole of acquired goodwill - the excess of purchase price over balance sheet value - immediately against reserves, so that it has no effect on reported profits.

Earlier drafts led to outright opposition from some professional accountants and also from big acquisitive companies. But Mr Michael Renishaw, the ASC chairman, and that immediate write-off could deplete balance sheets in a ridiculous way.

Thus far, only companies with insufficient reserves have used the method of writing goodwill off against profits.

If ASC changes the rules, it would bring British practice in line with the United States.

The revised draft is expected to retreat from outright opposition to incorporating the value of acquired brands in balance sheets as a separate item from goodwill, but would require brand values to be written off in the same way.

## Profits are pumped up at Reebok

The Pump, the latest craze in sports shoes, is helping to restore the fortunes of Reebok International.

Reebok, 31.8 per cent owned by Britain's Pentland Industries, reports a massive recovery in profits in the Christmas quarter, from \$6.72 million to just under \$35 million (£20.8 million), topping the previous best fourth quarter, 1987.

It boasts profits for the year to December 31 from \$137 million to \$175 million.

Pre-tax profits, in sterling terms, rise from £129.7 million to £177.6 million, of which £34.2 million is attributable to Pentland after tax.

Analysts predict that Pentland will turn in 1989 pre-tax profits of about £70 million, up from £58.7 million.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

## A great many leaves on the SeaCon line

Waiting for the fine print of Sea Containers' proposed deal with Temple Holdings is not unlike waiting for the 9.43 train from Brentwood to Liverpool Street: there seem an awful lot of leaves on the line.

We have to accept, until we hear otherwise, that the deals will go ahead and that Sherwood will deliver what he has promised to his own shareholders. Details of the recapitalization plan have yet to emerge, but with a billion dollars of Temple money in his pocket, Sherwood ought to be able to mix a Manhattan cocktail potent enough to suit the most sophisticated tastes.

Even so, there are hurdles still to be cleared, including shareholders' approval, and before Stena is able to hoist its own flag on the old Sealink British ferries, a year will probably have elapsed.

A year has similarly elapsed between the moment when the Tiphook board decided that Sea Containers' containers would look nice with a Tiphook label on them and the time when they actually change hands.

Tiphook's involvement with the bid brought to an end a convincing period of outperformance for Tiphook shares, and the directors, when they are sure they have a watertight deal with Sea Containers, will have to concentrate a deal of effort in persuading investors that they have not overpaid for a huge inflexible asset at the wrong point in the trade cycle.

Had he been obliged to play under

## Discos head for centre stage

John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, is winning some grudging compliments from the electricity industry for the way he is pushing through the intractable obstacles to electricity privatization one by one - albeit at the expense of most of the original principles.

But time is still running short. On the informal timetable being developed, the 12 distribution companies (or discos) will be sold in November, with National Power and PowerGen following together in February.

The two integrated Scottish boards (even more heavily depilated than National Power by the loss of nuclear stations) would probably find the process in the summer of 1991.

Perhaps the most rapid change, however, has been in the price targets for selling the industry, which could now be as low as £10 billion. Despite the elimination of nuclear power, which had acquired an almost negative stock market value, the likely sale price of the two main generating companies has been falling.

There are a number of causes. The structure of the supply contracts appears to have favoured the discos rather than the generators. The Government is anxious to avoid any further real price increases in advance of privatization after the two-year rise of 15 per cent above inflation. This was to pay for a

massive investment programme which has now magically disappeared, in part because the switch to replacement gas turbine stations has cut the desired margin of spare capacity.

It will also be impossible for the Government to claim that there will be genuine and increasing competition without equally raising the apparent risk to investors - especially in National Power's initial 50 per cent share of the market.

Finally, growth prospects may be unexciting since outsiders such as ICI, which plan to generate for themselves, are expected to account for nearly all the increased generating capacity.

The high returns on capital employed that will be required by the private sector may therefore have to be achieved by writing down the assets of the two generators. Mr Wakeham will not want to take this too far, however, since that would make it even harder for new entrants to compete. National Power and PowerGen therefore have a strong vested interest in writing off as much as possible and thereby reducing their sale price. Depending on which way that debate goes, the two together might end up being sold for £4 billion or even less.

This will make the discos - which might collectively fetch £5.5 to £6 billion, the centrepiece of the privatization rather than the overt.

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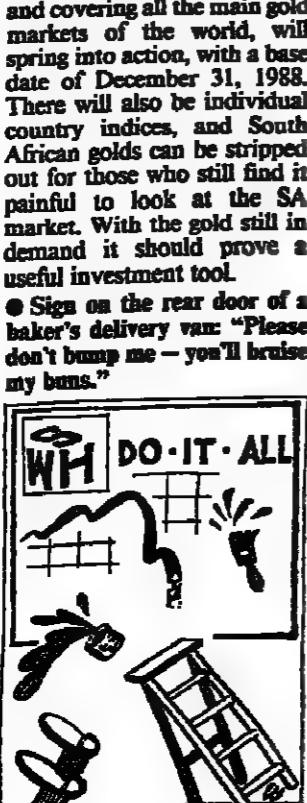
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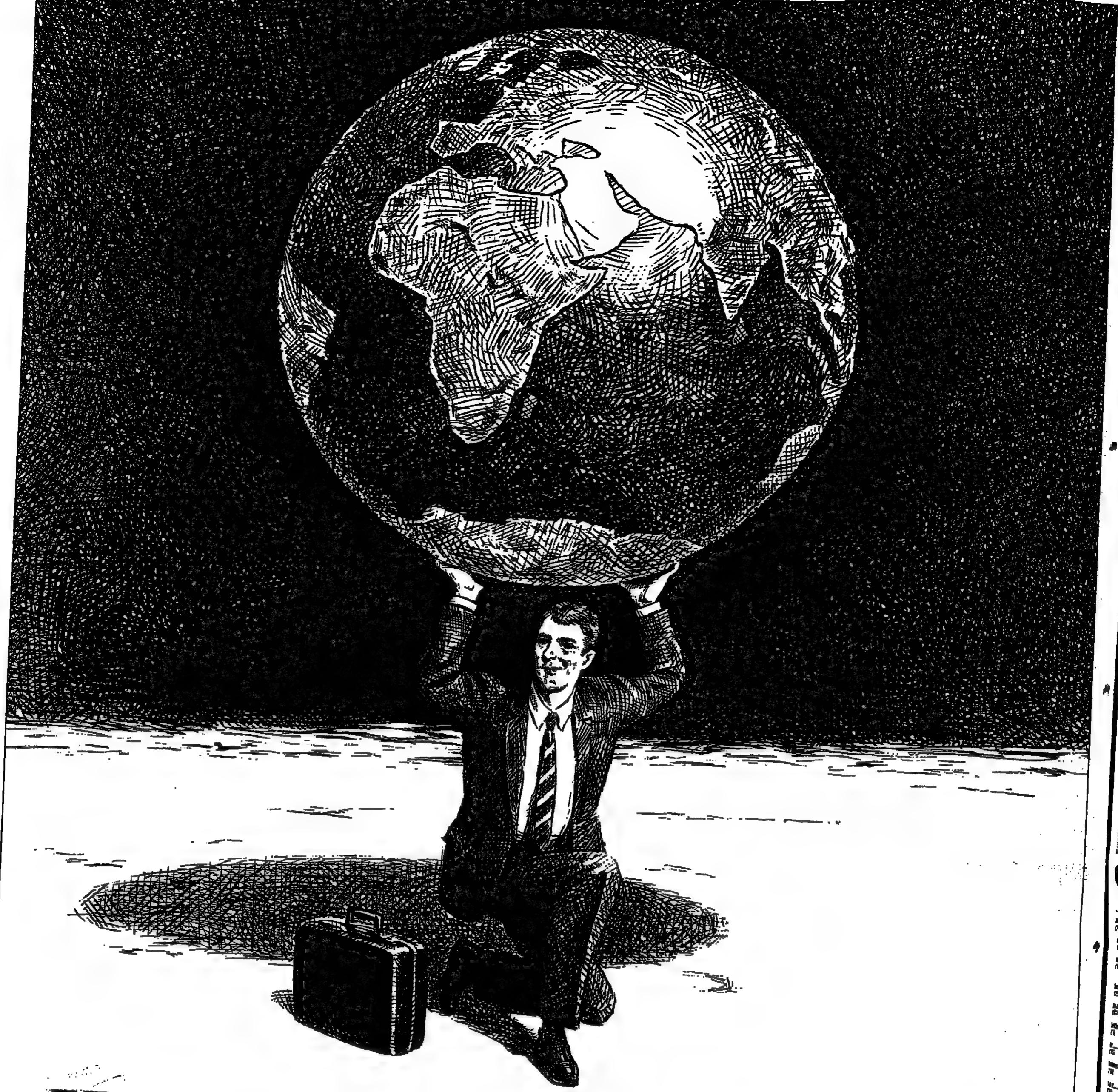
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## Gold guide

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## WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - US shares climbed 20.5 points to 2,563.74 in early trading, drawing support from firming bond prices, traders said.

Talk that the Chicago purchasing managers' report for January might reveal some weakness in the economy was linked to bonds' strength.

In fact, the report showed activity was stronger than

expected, which reversed the advance in bond prices.

"Bonds are helping the stocks," said Mr Larry Wachtel, analyst at Prudential-Bache Securities. "The Dow was poised to bounce. The question is what does it do for an encore?" The early advance failed to dispel scepticism about the market's potential for a sustained rise.

Jan 31 Jan 30  
midday close

## THE DOMINION COLLAPSE

# Downfall of a firm with many faces

**Dominion International has had many claims to fame. Now the spotlight is firmly trained on its failure. Martin Waller charts its decline**

A few years ago, Dominion was best known among investors for two things: its former chairman and leading light, Mr Max Lewisohn, had the longest hair in the City, and the company used to offer cheap funerals to its shareholders.

In the City itself, however, Dominion has always had other claims to fame, among them the rapidity with which it changed its financial advisers and a whiff of doubt which has always hung over the firm.

Mr Lewisohn's high profile, however, attracted a raft of smaller shareholders drawn by the explosive earnings growth he was managing in the early years.

"Many people in the City felt he was too clever for them," one early insider recalls. "When I looked at the share register, it was all small shareholders who were tempted in because it was a go-go stock. There were no big institutions in them."

"The institutions couldn't make head or tail of the strategy of the company — nor did they trust the quality of its earnings."

The somewhat morbid shareholders' peak ended in February 1988, when the Dundee Crematorium, Mr Lewisohn's base into which he moved in the mid-1970s, was sold to Great Southern, the funeral group, for £1.4 million. Many believe the real decline in Dominion's fortunes started around then.

Dominion has another claim to fame now; it is one of, so far, only a handful of quoted companies to have been pushed into collapse during the current downturn. The appointment of Price Waterhouse as administrator last month effectively put a cap on frantic attempts at a rescue by the new manage-

ment and groups of shareholders.

What is clear is that at its suspension price last September — way below its share price peak — the company was valued at £36 million, against loans of more than £100 million. Shareholders, therefore, will not see any of their money back.

Mr Lewisohn took his company into a wide range of unrelated sectors in search of stability. Until about 1984 it was focused primarily on finance, property and housebuilding and oil. Received wisdom from the company itself was that any substantial purchases elsewhere would upset the balance. But it was the two-stage purchase early the next year of Film Finances which brought another pair of brothers to the group and led to the battles which resulted in Mr Lewisohn's departure.

Mr Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Mr Nigel Cayzer were well-known City figures, the latter having taken his mother's name. Mr Galliers-Pratt is chairman of Harvey & Thompson, the quoted pawnbroker, and Mr Cayzer heads Allied Insurance Brokers.

Film Finances came to the group with its own problems. Its business was risky even by Dominion's standards, involving the provision of insurance against cost overruns. It arrived with a heavy exposure to what was to become one of the decade's worst flops, the fantasy *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. According to Mr Galliers-Pratt, the film had been over budget within a week of entering production in September 1987.

The year 1988 saw warnings from Dominion over the effects of falling oil prices, a weak dollar and low savings of personal finance plans. Laing &

The first move was to pay \$3 million, or £2.1 million then, for 25 per cent of Intex, a Bermuda-based company set up in 1981 to create the world's first fully-automated financial futures exchange. It was the first of a number of diversifications that were to go horribly wrong.

In September 1986, it paid \$27 million, or £18.2 million, for Transnational of the US, taking it into the risky area of computer leasing.

Summer of the next year was salved by a bid approach which came to nothing. Later that year it put up

a cap on frantic attempts at a rescue by the new management.

Dominion has another claim to fame now; it is one of, so far, only a handful of quoted companies to have been pushed into collapse during the current downturn. The appointment of Price Waterhouse as administrator last month effectively put a cap on frantic attempts at a rescue by the new manage-

## Twists and turns on a downhill road

late 1970s — Max Lewisohn takes control of Dundee Crematorium, name changed to Dundonian.

December 1979 — buys housebuilder Algrey Developments for £2.25 million.

May 1980 — plans to open three tin, tungsten and silver mines in Cornwall.

June 1980 — South West Consolidated Minerals floated off, 75 per cent retained.

August 1982 — change of name to Dominion and restructuring.

February 1983 — £5.2 million rights issue.

June 1984 — buys 25 per cent of Intex.

August 1984 — buys Anglo-International Investment Trust for £14 million, subsequently liquidated.

September 1984 — buys Transnational for \$27 million.

July 1987 — bid approach "at close to 134p". Talks subsequently terminated.

October 1987 — puts up for sale its 59 per cent of Southwest Resources (the renamed South West Consolidated).

November 1987 — departure of four directors, all with long associations with Max Lewisohn. Lord Barnett becomes deputy chairman.

January 1988 — The Richardsons acquire

5.8 per cent in post-crash dealings.

February 1988 — Dundee Crematorium sold for £1.4 million to Great Southern Group, breaking Dominion's long links with funeral services.

February 1988 — purchase of 24 per cent of Film Finances for £4.7 million as continuing switch from energy to financial services.

April 1988 — purchase of rest of Film Finances, valuing entire group at £24.6 million and bringing on to Dominion board Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Nigel Cayzer.

Promits warning.

August 1988 — reduces stake in Southwest Resources from 43 per cent to 31 per cent.

December 1988 — interim loss of £389,000 at Southwest.

December 1988 — Lewisohn steps down as chairman in favour of Lord Barnett, becoming deputy chairman.

May 1989 — sale of Guardian Investment Holdings, Hong Kong-based property company, for £6.5 million to Southwest Resources. But flop of Southwest rights issue, underwritten by Dominion, pushes its stake back up to 45 per cent.

July 1989 — plans to sell 80 per cent of Film Finances to its management for £25 million and buy York Associates, a New York mortgage company, for £23 million. Deal never completed. Pre-tax profits for full year £5.44 million, previous year's reduced from £5.8 million to £4.57 million on adoption of "more conservative accounting policies".

August 1989 — Lewisohn quits as deputy chairman ahead of shareholder action at annual meeting. Sales more than half his stake, it is later revealed.

August 1989 — Lewisohn quits as chairman of Southwest.

September 1989 — shares in Dominion suspended at 52p, valuing company at £26.5 million.

September 1989 — final dividend payment of 3p, already announced, halved after review showing financial position "substantially worse than thought".

November 1989 — Lord Barnett and John Clarke, the non-executive directors, quit the board.

January 1990 — Price Waterhouse called in as administrator. Assets shortfall estimated at £40 million.

Dominion has two profitable and readily saleable assets, Transnational, the US computer peripheral leasing company, and the Film Finances business.

Although the appearance of the latter on the 1988-89 balance sheet as a subsidiary held for sale at £25 million excited some surprise among City analysts, the company is the second biggest in its chosen field in the world.

The same cannot be said for some other parts of the group.

Dominion has about 150 separate subsidiaries, but around 100 are based in Gibraltar and are merely used under Spanish law for the purchase of the company's flats on the Costa del Sol. Others are dormant.

The chief assets outside Film Finances and Transnational

are a 7 per cent stake in USM-Southwest Resources, worth £1 million.

Berwin La Roche, a mortgage and pension broker which is thought to be close to disposal.

Dominion Financial Management, which provides computer and administrative services inside the group and to third parties. The company is profitable.

Dominion Investment Management, not in administration, which writes personal equity plans, has continued to trade profitably and retained its Fimbra membership, and is the subject of an attempted management buyout.

The financial services business, providing personal loans, part of Sarnia Mutual Supply, which also holds the Spanish development. The

loan book should have no difficulty finding a buyer.

The Spanish properties, Dominion Beach, where the first phase is complete and largely sold, and the second started, and Dominion Heights, not yet started. Building has stopped on site and some contractors are owed money. Guernsey-based Savills is in liquidation. It is hoped the Spanish site can be sold as a going concern.

The administrator, Price Waterhouse, is unable at this early stage to give any breakdown of the value of the assets. But sources close to the company have suggested they are unlikely to total much more than £50 million, leaving a £40 million shortfall against outstanding borrowings.

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# Now, why on earth would anyone be willing to settle for 10 or 11% interest when Mrs T. will give you as much as 67%? – Every year.

**L**ETS GET THINGS in perspective.

Say you have £3,000. As you know, any bank will happily give you 10 or 11% a year to let them use your money. Then the bank will take the money and invest it at around 16%.

So let's say they make £480 on your money – give you about £300 for your interest – and keep the rest.

Then, before you can get your hands on it, the Taxman comes along and takes his cut – and you're left with maybe £230.

Well ... not quite.

There's still the little matter of inflation. You see, at the same time you're making £230, the cost of living is certain to fetch up at over 7% – so you'll probably lose £210 on the £3,000 you lent the bank in the first place in order to make £230 in interest.

**W**HAT ABOUT the building society? Well, the story is not much different. They might allow you 1% more – but you'll have to lend them your money for longer, so that they can earn more on it than the bank does.

In any case, let's say you put money in a building society for a number of years and you've managed to earn £5,000 in interest. Naturally, the Taxman will get his share again – as much as £2,000 – because when you earn INTEREST it's fully taxable.

**B**UT DON'T DESPAIR – you see, there's a very interesting "up-side" to all of this. Because the way the rules of the game are set up, the Government says that if you're prepared to put in a bit of effort and make the £5,000 in CAPITAL GAINS\* rather than just interest – then you can keep it all!

So, depending on your tax rate, that gives you a whopping increase of 33% to 67% on your money! And the best part of it is – it's compliments of Mrs T.

What's more, it doesn't even stop there. Because now you're also allowed to increase your profit by the rate of inflation – so you pocket that too! Just because it's Capital Gains.

**M**IND YOU, it's sad how *lazy* some people can be. You'll hear them say things like, "Well ... I'm not too sure I want to learn about how to make Capital Gains, and anyway, is it really worth the bother?"

In just a minute we'll get to the first part of that question, but in the meantime let's answer the second part with a brief example:

We know that if you make Capital Gains instead of interest, you get to keep up to £2,000 a year extra. Now, if you take that "free gift" from the Government and earn say a 16%

\* CAPITAL GAINS: The profit you get from selling something for more than you paid.

\* In the United States, for example, you don't get any tax break on Capital Gains.

return on it (just like the chap at the bank does with the money you lend him) – in less than 14 years you'll have turned it into an extra £100,000!

Or, you might want to keep it compounding all the way up to £300,000, or even £500,000.

**P**ERHAPS you feel that's a bit far-fetched? Not at all. You see, because of the "magic" of compound growth, even at 14% your money actually *keeps on doubling every five years!*

Now you could be thinking that you don't know how to get a 14% return? That you've never had the opportunity to learn much about money matters?

And of course, you're not alone.

Just look around and you'll find people who can tell you all about Word

Processing ... or the Treble Chance ... or the Anasazi Ruins ... or whatever. But don't ask them if they know anything about how to manage their own money ... And don't ask them about Options ... or

Government Gilts ... or Penny Shares ... or Equity Release Home Mortgages.

**W**HY? BECAUSE – incredible as it now seems – it wasn't so long ago that the only way anybody could get *any kind of unbiased education in personal finances and investing*, was from odd scraps of information picked up from newspapers and magazines ... or cocktail party chatter ... or by costly trial and error.

But fortunately, that's all in the past – because now you can get the kind of independent, unbiased, practical investing and money management know-how you need, in one complete no-nonsense package.

**S**UCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING (SPI) is the unique "hands on", self-instruction course in investing and money management, that you review at home ... at your own pace ... with *no pressure*.

The SPI course shows you clearly, in plain English, in a short series of non-technical lessons that get right to

the point, how to accomplish these three important steps –

**FIRST** – You'll quickly see how to "uncover" up to an extra £2,000 a year to invest – money you probably don't even know exists ...

**SECOND** – You'll be surprised how easy it is to learn how to evaluate for yourself things like the new pension schemes ... gilts ... building societies ... shares ... property ... tax cutting ... "PEPs" ... In fact, all the important areas are covered.

**THIRD** – And maybe most rewarding – you'll learn in detail about a number of crafty but simple "behind-the-scenes" techniques that you don't usually get to find out about at all. The kind that can often boost your returns to 20, 30, even 50% or more – sometimes in months – not years ...

**T**AKE, FOR EXAMPLE a little technique called a "straddle", which lets you bet that the stockmarket

will go up – and at the same time bet that it will go down – and, believe it or not, you can make a profit whether it goes up or goes down! (Lesson 8) ...

Then there's the "secret" of BETA (Lesson 5), the easy way to choose a Unit Trust, that the industry doesn't like you to know about. (Just try to get the information out of them!) ...

And in Lesson 9, you'll learn how to slash the up-front cost of buying Government Gilts by as much as 50%, using "margin" ...

**Y**OU'LL SEE EXACTLY how to buy and sell shares without the bother of actually having to own them (Traded Options, Lesson 10) ...

And how to "top-up" your Pension Plan by taking advantage of the new rules – then borrow it right back again! (Lesson 12) ...

Of course, there's a good deal more, but as you can see, SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING is definitely not

just some collection of "hot tips" or boring technical mumbo-jumbo.

Far from it.

In fact, you'll find that each lesson is carefully structured so that it's no more difficult to follow than a kitchen recipe, where all the ingredients are listed and the preparation described in logical, step-by-step sequence that anyone can follow and understand.

Bear in mind, too, that *Independent Research Services* is not connected with any Stockbroker or Insurance Company or the like ... nor with any Commissioned Salesmen or Agents. So you can be absolutely sure that what you will learn will be for no one's benefit but yours.

**N**Ow, you'll probably find that you want to spend a couple of hours a week with the course lessons – but think about this:

Most people spend more time planning a fortnight's holiday than learning how to manipulate their money.

True, money isn't everything. But it *does* help. And in learning how to use the practical know-how and techniques clearly described in the SPI programme, you'll be giving yourself an excellent chance of being well on the road to financial independence in just a few years.

So, even if you just want to *see for yourself* – you can now get to look over the first two lessons for 10 days just by posting the coupon below.

Here's how the SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING programme works:

- 1 Two lessons are made available every 4 weeks or so, for £9.50 each, plus postage.
- 2 You may review each of the 27 lessons in the course for 10 days – at no charge – and "pay-as-you-go" only for those you decide to keep.
- 3 You can cancel this arrangement at any time, and drop out of the course whenever you want.

*On this basis, please send me the first two lessons. I'll review them at no charge. Then, I'll either send them back – or pay for them only if I decide I want to continue.*

(Block capitals please)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

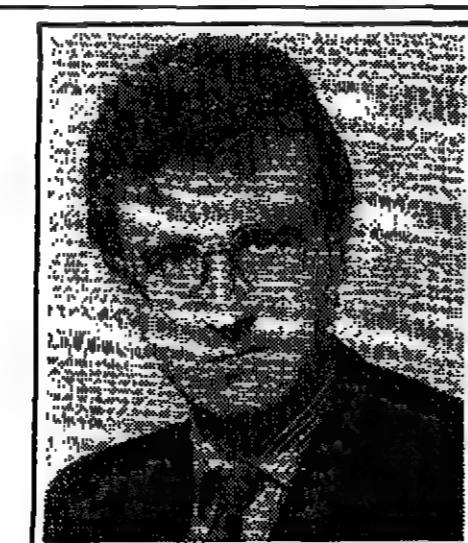
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Douglas Moffitt  
TV & Radio Financial Commentator

**A**t last, it is possible for a normal human being to learn the ins-and-outs of money-management and investing *without* being subjected to all sorts of pompous and confusing technical twaddle ...

*The Successful Personal Investing programme from IRS is like a great breath of fresh air.*

*Douglas Moffitt*

*Douglas Moffitt*

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

**UNLISTED SECURITIES**

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

- Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend payment passed / Price at suspension g Dividend yield e include a special payment h Pre-merger

### THIRD MARKET

rate Dec. 30, 1990 to Jan. 31, 1990 Premiums per ton \$135.75  
15.199 per cent. Spot Silver: \$5.19-5.21 (22)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100	2357.0	2368.0	2352.0	2356.0	27765
May 90 cont.	2357.0	2368.0	2352.0	2356.0	7725

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three month ECU	Previous open interest 27765	Previous high interest 17805	Previous low interest 17805	Previous close interest 17805	

Group	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Mar 96	Mar 97	Mar 98	Mar 99	Mar 00
no Magic Up	55	52	51	51	51	51.2	51.2	51.4	51.4	51.4

COMMODITIES										
ICMS-LCR Group					LONDON FOX					
Consistent with recent trends, the Europeans pushed crude prices down by 30 cents but the US brought them back up. Only gasoline held its ground while other products slipped in line with the markets. Trade was robust.					AMT Futures					
					Mar 626-627	Dec 692-697				
Brent Phys.	20.55	-15			May 640-638	Mar 712-711				
15 day Feb	20.50	-10			Jul 650-652	May 727-724				
15 day Mar	19.80	-10			Sep 669-668	Vol 3293				
WTI Mar	22.45	-5			COPPER	AMT Futures				
WTI Apr	21.65				Jan 565 EXP	Sep 612-611				
<b>PRODUCTS</b> <i>Buy/Sell \$/BBL FOB</i>					Mar 582-580	Nov 630-627				
Brent Crude	218-220	+2	GAS OIL	AMT Futures	May 595-590	Jan 645-647				
Gasom Gas 15	+2		Fob	166.00-165.50	Jul 680-687	Vol 2473				
Brent EEC	169-171	+3	Mar	164.00-163.75	C SUGAR	C Cane/Beet				
Nom 1H Feb	185-187	+4	Apt	161.25-161.00	FOB	Vol 5438				
Nom 1H Mar	184-185	+2	May	159.25-158.00	FOB	Oct 313.6-13.4				
LS Full Oil	88-88		JUN	158.50-157.00	Mar 326.0-25.0	May 324.6-24.4	Dec 311.0-02.0			
Lignite	+3		JUL	157.00 BYR	Aug 333.0-22.5	Mar 289.6-08.0				
<b>BRITAIN</b> <i>Buy/Sell \$/MT</i>					LONDON CRUDE FUTURES					
West Crude NW Band	218-220	+3	AMT Futures	19.78-19.70	WHEAT close (270)	Vol 723				
Brent Gas 15	+2		Mar	19.50-19.25	Mr 115.10 My 118.25	Jn 121.10	Pig Contract	LONDON MEAT FUTURES (P/B)		
Brent EEC	169-171	+3	Apr	19.20-18.95	Sp 106.20 Mr 110.80	Jl 112.70	Mrn Open Close	LARGE STOCKHOLDERS OF REPRESENTATIVE MARKETS ON JANUARY 31		
Nom 1H Feb	185-187	+4	May	18.95-18.70	WB 106.70 My 111.00	Sp 103.70	Feb 109.3 110.0	(kg/bag)	Pig	
Nom 1H Mar	184-185	+2	JUN	18.70-18.45	Mr 106.80 Jl 110.00	Aug 113.3 114.0	GB (p) 85.42	Sheep	Carrie	
LS Full Oil	88-88		JUL	18.45-18.20	WB 106.70 My 111.00	Aug 113.0 115.0	GB (+/-) +1.68	+-1.5	+1.15	
Lignite	+3		AGO	18.20-18.05	Sp 103.70	Jun 113.0 115.0	Eng/Wel (%) +4.2	+5.5	+0.6	
<b>EEC</b> <i>Buy/Sell \$/MT</i>					SOYABEAN	AMT Futures	Aug 113.0 114.0	Eng/Wel (p) 85.42	207.78	111.18
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/kg)			MRN	18.00-17.85	Feb 190.0-93.0	OCT 126.0-92.0	Live Cattle Contract	+1.68	-2.53	+1.25
Jan 90 HI	Low		APR	18.00-17.85	Apr 191.0-92.0	DEC 129.0-94.0	Eng/Wel (+/-) +1.68	+2.53	-0.21	-0.6
Feb 90 HI	180.00-180.05	Low	MAY	18.00-17.85	May 192.0-92.0	Apr 110.8 110.8	Scotland (p) 85.42	+20.7	-0.4	
Mar 90 HI	184.00-184.05	Low	JUN	18.00-17.85	May 192.0-92.0	Apr 114.5 115.0	Scotland (n) 85.42	+20.7	-0.4	
Apr 90 HI	184.00-184.05	Low	JUL	18.00-17.85	May 192.0-92.0	Apr 114.5 115.0	Scotland (n) 85.42	+20.7	-0.4	
May 90 HI	184.00-184.05	Low	AGO	18.00-17.85	May 192.0-92.0	Apr 114.5 115.0	Scotland (n) 85.42	+20.7	-0.4	
<b>EEC</b> <i>Buy/Sell \$/MT</i>					COFFEE	AMT Futures				
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/kg)			MRN	18.00-17.85	Jan 565 EXP	Sep 612-611	Copper Gds A	1304.0-1306.0	1318.0-1319.0	374825 Steady
Jan 90 HI	Low		APR	18.00-17.85	Mar 582-580	Nov 630-627	Lead	412.00-412.00	407.00-408.00	46820 Steady
Feb 90 HI	180.00-180.05	Low	MAY	18.00-17.85	May 595-590	Dec 680-687	Zinc HI Gds	1283.0-1287.0	1240.0-1260.0	5250 NI
Mar 90 HI	184.00-184.05	Low	JUN	18.00-17.85	Jul 680-687	Dec 680-687	Zinc Spec HI	1288.0-1270.0	1288.0-1271.0	99200 Easier
Apr 90 HI	184.00-184.05	Low	AGO	18.00-17.85	Vol 2473	Tin	6060-6100	6230-6240	8480 Steady	
May 90 HI	184.00-184.05	Low	MRN	18.00-17.85	C Cane/Beet	Aluminium HI	1375.0-1390.0	1405.0-1407.0	257475 Easy	
<b>EEC</b> <i>Buy/Sell \$/MT</i>					FOB	Vol 5438	Nickel	5975-6000	6350-6370	9200 Buy/Steady
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo (\$10/kg)			AGO	18.00-17.85	1 (Centes per Troy oz.) * (5 per tonne)					
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE										
Official prices/volume previous day					Ratios/Weight					
(£/tonne)					(£/tonne)					
Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone							

• 100 •

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		prices/volume previous day		Rudolf Wally
Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone	
1304.0-1305.0	1318.0-1319.0	374825	Steady	
412.00-413.00	407.00-408.00	49850	Steady	
1283.0-1287.0	1240.0-1240.0	9250	Mild	
1286.0-1270.0	1268.0-1271.0	92200	Easier	
6080-6100	6230-6240	8480	Steady	
1378.0-1390.0	1405.0-1407.0	287475	Easier	
5975-6000	5850-5870	9000	Buy Steady	
roy oz. * (3 per tonne)				
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				
(kg)	(kg)	Avg's Livestock prices at representative markets as January 31		
Close	(kg/lb)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
110.0	GB (s)	55.42	207.30	110.75
114.5	GB (m)	+1.42	-1.95	+1.15
115.0	GB (+/-)	+1.42	+5.8	+0.8
114.0	Engl/Val (%)	+1.42	+5.8	+0.8
114.0	Engl/Val (p)	55.42	207.70	111.50
110.8	Engl/Val (+/-)	+1.60	-2.65	+1.25
114.5	Scotland (s)	n/a	-20.7	-0.6
	Scotland (m)	n/a	+20.7	+0.65





FOCUS

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION CENTRES

ANDREW BOURNE



How the delegates see it: audience participation is growing, in some cases with electronic-response systems in which key pads are used to indicate responses to questions from the platform

**J**eremy Sale is emphatic. "People have always spoken about conferences and exhibitions, but we like to put it the other way round: exhibitions and conferences." The director of the Exhibition Industry Federation is underlining the importance of the £1 billion British exhibitions industry.

"There is now, of course, a close relationship between the two. Few exhibitions will not have some form of conference alongside and, vice versa, conferences and seminars will develop an exhibition element."

Sale's organization provides the collective voice for the British exhibitions industry. "In Britain, exhibitions are made up of three different strands – organizers, contractors and venue owners – whereas in West Germany, for example, it is all one."

Aberdeen last year found itself host to 2,000 Quakers for its university's biggest – and quietest – summer conference. Paul Boness, Aberdeen University's conference marketing officer, says: "This year promises to be noisier; one booking includes more than 700 Canadian pipers and drummers."

Britain has three main groups of suppliers of conference facilities: hotels, purpose-built centres such as London's Queen Elizabeth II Centre – and universities.

"Our story is one of growth and development," says Caroline Forman, secretary of the British Universities Accommodation Consortium (Bauc), the universities' 19-year-old collective marketing organization. The universities score over their hotel rivals in three

## More tell and sell

### As the industry grows, conferences and exhibitions move closer in concept

Sale does not see Britain taking on the European exhibition giants after 1992. "With our venue capacity and the size of exhibition halls we have, we'll continue to run highly specialized shows," he says.

"We have, however, set up initiatives with Brussels and are taking a lead in trying to get a common

"denomination" in Europe, whereby if you exhibit in, say, London or Munich, the definitions, nomenclature and standards are all of one ilk."

One of the federation's main aims has been to prove the effectiveness of exhibitions as a marketing medium. "We don't really know yet

In the past two years, the industry has been buoyant and has expanded at a great rate. "We are optimistic about expansion prospects in the industry for the next five years," Sale says.

The federation's preliminary research work into the British exhibitions industry has shown that in 1988, 9.5 million visitors passed through the turnstiles of 651 exhibitions in 46 venues with a minimum capacity of 2,390 sq yds.

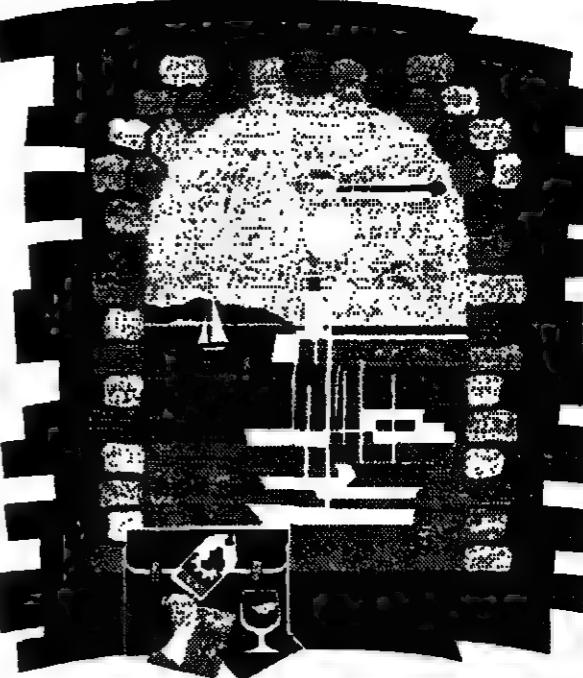
They generated a total expenditure of nearly £1 billion. In 1984, there had been 467 exhibitions at 26 venues.

Further expansion, however, is

limited by the number and size of venues and the dominant position of London and Birmingham. According to Sale, the NEC is the country's "prize venue" for size and modern facilities, but London is still seen as the magnet for exhibitions.

"The business is fairly seasonal – you have troughs and peaks," Sale says. "Everyone wants to exhibit at the same times of the year. There is, however, plenty of scope. We want to make medium-size exhibitions more international, thus turning them into bigger ones, and the specialized ones into more specialized ones."

The picture is one of development of tried and tested venues rather than the building of new ones, for which the costs would be prohibitive. Sale says: "Wembley is extending, the Arena in London's Docklands has come on stream and Brighton is thinking of expanding."



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Penny Hanson: it's show time

## Confex 90 is the show for everyone

More than 4,000 visitors have registered already for International Confex 90, which will open at Olympia next Tuesday for three days.

The event will be the largest meetings, incentive travel, exhibitions and conferences show to date, with 325 stands representing 812 exhibitors. Last year Confex, now in its seventh year, attracted 3,267 visitors; this year, its organizer, Bielefeld Queensdale, expects about 8,000. Of those attending the 1989 show, 31 per cent controlled budgets of more than £50,000 and 19 per cent were authorized to spend more than £50,000.

Penny Hanson, joint managing director of Bielefeld Queensdale, says: "International Confex 90 will have something for every buyer, from executives or

ganizing international meetings of thousands of people to organizers of small conferences; from the manager organizing travel incentives to the exhibition stand manager responsible for his trade show stand."

Forty countries will be represented, promoting incentive travel packages, meeting and conference facilities, and 60 stands will be operated by big hotel chains.

Timed to coincide with International Confex 90 is the second International Symposium on Conference Safety, at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, next Monday and Tuesday.

The symposium is being held under the auspices of the Association Internationale des Palais de Congrès. Leading authorities will deal with conference security, fire hazards, safety and food.

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## Campus lessons

ways. They have large, well-equipped, purpose-built lecture halls; they occupy larger sites, often in parkland settings, with recreational and proper study facilities, and they are cheaper.

The Bauc "24-hour tariff" for lunch, tea, coffee, meeting room, dinner, bed and breakfast, starts from £22 a person at Queen Mary College, London, to £54.25 at Churchill College, Cambridge. A three-star hotel would charge between £20 and £20 for the same package. Delegates can meet, eat and sleep at the same

building or on the same site. However, conference centres and hotels are available all year round, which is a facility that so far only 20 of Bauc's 54 members can provide.

Aberdeen is the most northerly university in Britain, but this has not been a disadvantage. "It is balanced by the sea attractions the others do not have: we're on the doorstep of the Highlands," Boness says.

Meeting the challenge for public spending cuts has been the main factor behind the universities' becoming a force in the conference business. The market leader, Warwick University, last year earned £3.4 million from conferences – 5.1 per cent of its income.

• Bauc, Box 600, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (0602 534571).

### LAST WORD ON EXHIBITIONS

• A new booklet listing 168 exhibitions in the UK this year has been produced by the Department of Trade and Industry, the British Tourist Authority and the Exhibition Industry Federation. *Trade Fairs in Britain*, which details exhibitions in 34 industry sectors, is an amalgamation of previous DTI and BTA listings and has been published as a result of an initiative by the EIF. Copies are available from the EIF, Streat Lane House, 254 Upper Richmond Road West, London SW14 8AG (01-678 9130) or from BTA offices abroad.

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state-of-the-art sound and lighting system and audio-visual control room, can hold 2000 delegates – spellbound.

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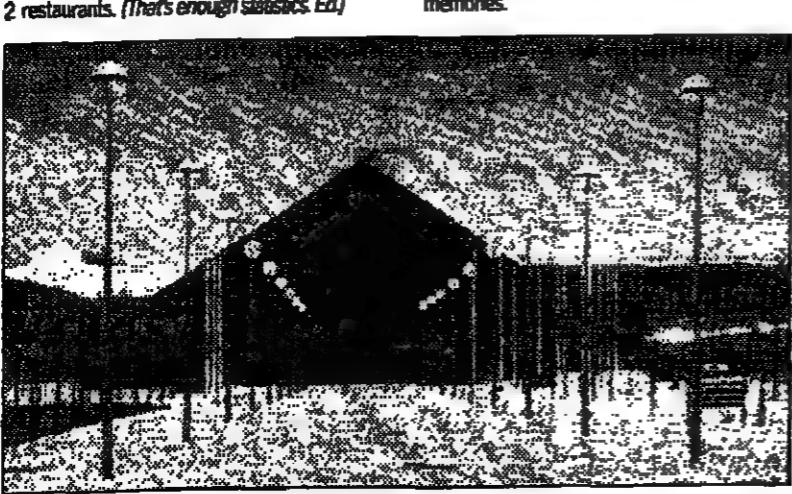
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

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PHOTOGRAPH: ROYAL OBSERVATORY, EDINBURGH

BINARY STARS: HOW THEY MERGE  
Binary stars in a spiralling orbit until they merge as one, then give off gravity waves

# World bid to catch the gravity wave

A £30 million project to prove Einstein's theory of space-time is being led by Scottish scientists. Pearce Wright says their new observatory could unlock the secrets of the universe

**B**ritish scientists are about to take centre stage in a unique international effort to prove the existence of gravity waves: the so-called ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein but which have yet to be convincingly detected.

The researchers have entered on a multi-million pound enterprise which could provide answers to some of the most baffling questions in astronomy about the age of the universe and how the first galaxies and stars were formed after the Big Bang of creation. Several observatories, linked at points around the world, are needed for the experiments.

Indeed, the new trans-global project could resolve growing confusion. The flood of discoveries by powerful ground-based optical and radar telescopes and spacecraft are introducing more perplexing queries rather than answers to questions.

The invention that should resolve some of the conundrums is a revolutionary type of laboratory in which scientists hope, for the first time, to detect the gravity waves that, according to Einstein's theory, sweep silently and unseen across space from exploding stars, black holes, pulsars and the convulsions of other celestial bodies.

But only a handful of scientists worldwide are working in this field. Scotland provides one of the prime sites, at Tents Muir Forest, north of St Andrews in Fife, for the novel type of observatory planned for detecting gravity waves. It will use a new type of instrument - a laser detector - being pioneered by groups at Glasgow University, the Max-Planck Institute at Garching in West Germany, and the California Institute of Technology, Caltech. All have built prototypes.

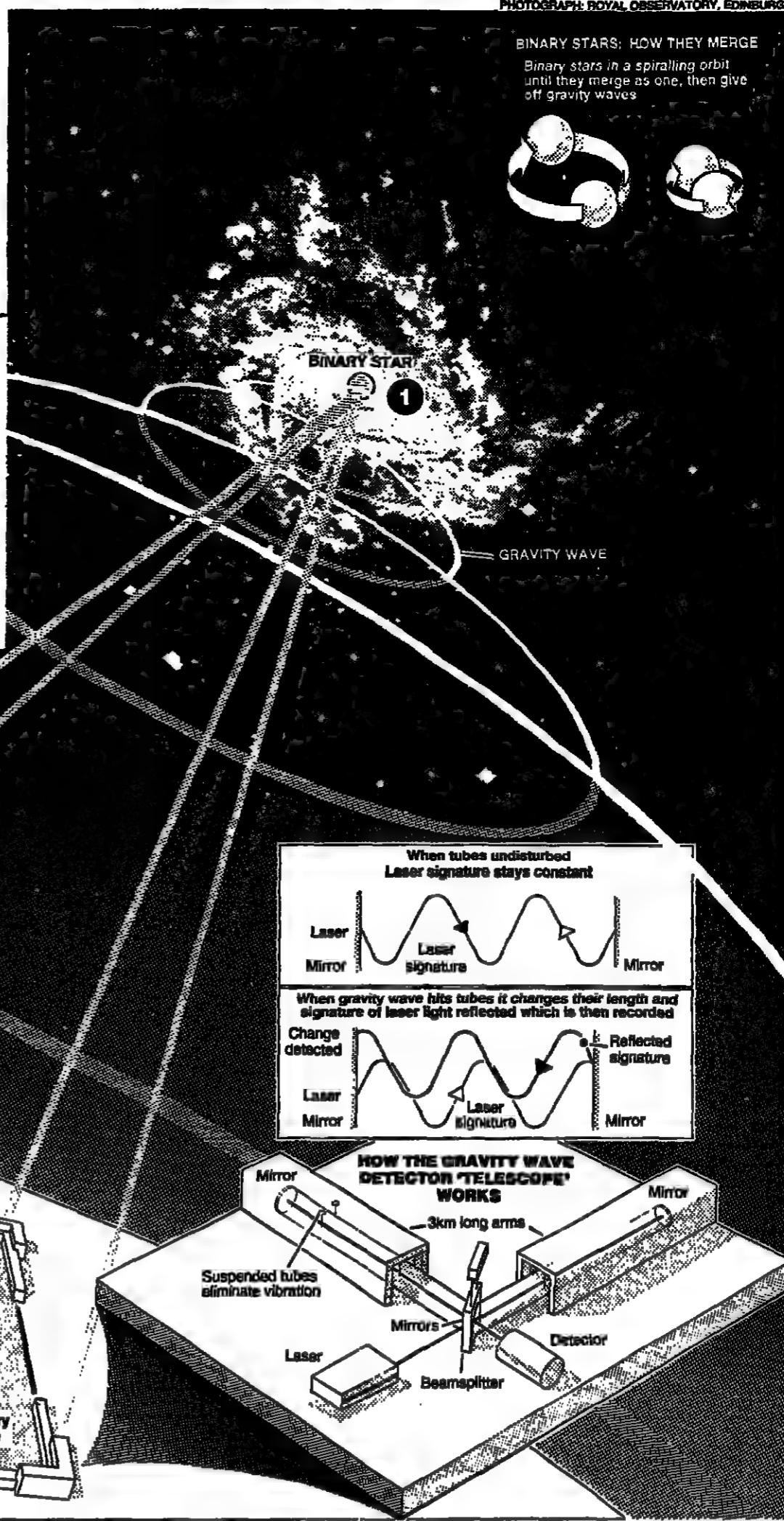
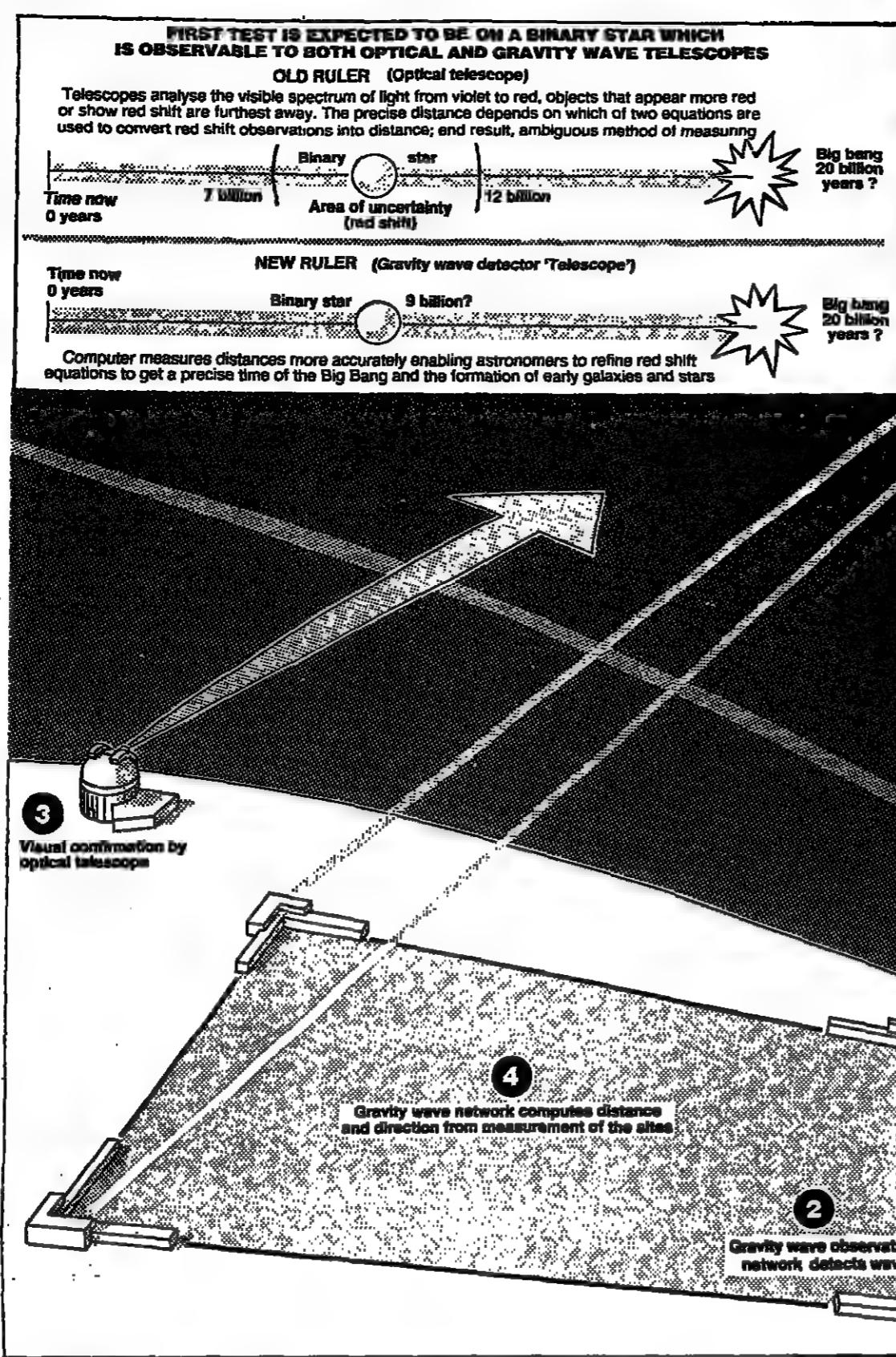
Professor James Hough, director of the Glasgow team, believes the gravity wave instruments will give astronomers a new window on to the universe.

"The detection of gravity waves will give new types of information, qualitatively different from those produced by any other observation," he says.

Among the fundamental disputes that could be settled is the argument over the established methods astronomers use to measure distances and occurrences in galaxies far beyond our own. Modern cosmology uses a measurement of red-shift, which is now found to be influenced by other factors, and therefore less accurate.

Instead, the linked gravity wave observatories should provide the nearest thing to an exact cosmic tape measure, or ruler, for the direct measurement of distance across space.

But the primary experiment is to provide the definitive test of



Einstein's view of the universe, as he described it in his General Theory of Relativity that refined Newton's theory of gravity by adding time to the other dimensions of space.

The new gravity wave detectors, each costing about £30 million to build, will depend on shining laser beams along two tubes, each three kilometres long. The one proposed as a joint Glasgow University/Max Planck project could be excavated either in the Scottish countryside, near St Andrews, or at a site in Bavaria.

Despite the prediction by Einstein of the existence of gravity waves, the first attempt at detection was made only 25 years ago.

The first builder of gravity wave detectors was Dr Joseph Weber, at the University of Maryland, in the United States. His major device was a 1.5 ton cylinder of aluminium, hanging from vibration-proof mountings in a vacuum chamber. It was meant to be so sensitive that, if a gravity wave passed across it, the stress produced could be picked up electronically by the most delicate strain gauges.

There were some sensational moments that turned out to be false alarms, but no conclusive evidence of gravity waves.

More sensitive, metal solid detectors were built 20 years ago, in Glasgow, based on pioneering work by Professor Ronald Drever.

Again, they failed to find the elusive gravity wave.

Drever now heads a gravity wave team involving Caltech, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, California, which has plans for two observatories, one each on the east and west coasts of America.

Proposals have also been prepared for Italian-French and Australian-Japanese gravity wave observatories. A gravity wave "telescope" needs a site free from any seismic activity.

Professor John Sandeman, from the Australian National University (ANU), and David Blair, from the University of Western Australia (UWA), have found an ideal place at a sandy area on Wallingup Plain, near Gingin 45 miles north of Perth.

Hough says: "Ideally, a network of at least four observatories, several thousand miles apart but linked by atomic clocks, is needed to make an accurate location of the source of gravity waves."

Continued on page 37

## Nasa's space shock

A leading partner of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has voiced concern over plans to economize on the Freedom international space station project (Pearce Wright writes).

Disquiet was expressed by Professor Reimar Lutz, director-general of the European Space Agency (ESA), in an address to the US House of Representatives committee on science, space and technology. He hoped that Nasa would honour the original agreement on co-operation, signed - at President Reagan's invitation - with the European agency in 1984, and restate the developments on which the agency is spending \$5 billion (£3 billion) as part of the

multi-billion Freedom space station that was to be launched in 1995.

ESA's contribution to the venture is covered by a package of projects called the Columbus development programme. It includes a manned laboratory to be attached permanently to Freedom; a spacecraft called a man-tended free-flyer (MTFF) that would carry experiments back and forth from the manned laboratory into

Nasa still hopes to build the station and have it fully crewed by American astronauts within six months of its 1995 target date. But it has to achieve that while saving 20 per cent of the money first proposed for the project.

The changes not only rob the laboratories of electrical power, they also threaten European and Japanese plans for a free-flying laboratory because there would be no provisions for looking after it.

Nasa did not consult its international partners, which together will spend \$8 billion on the space station. But the Americans still expect those contributions.

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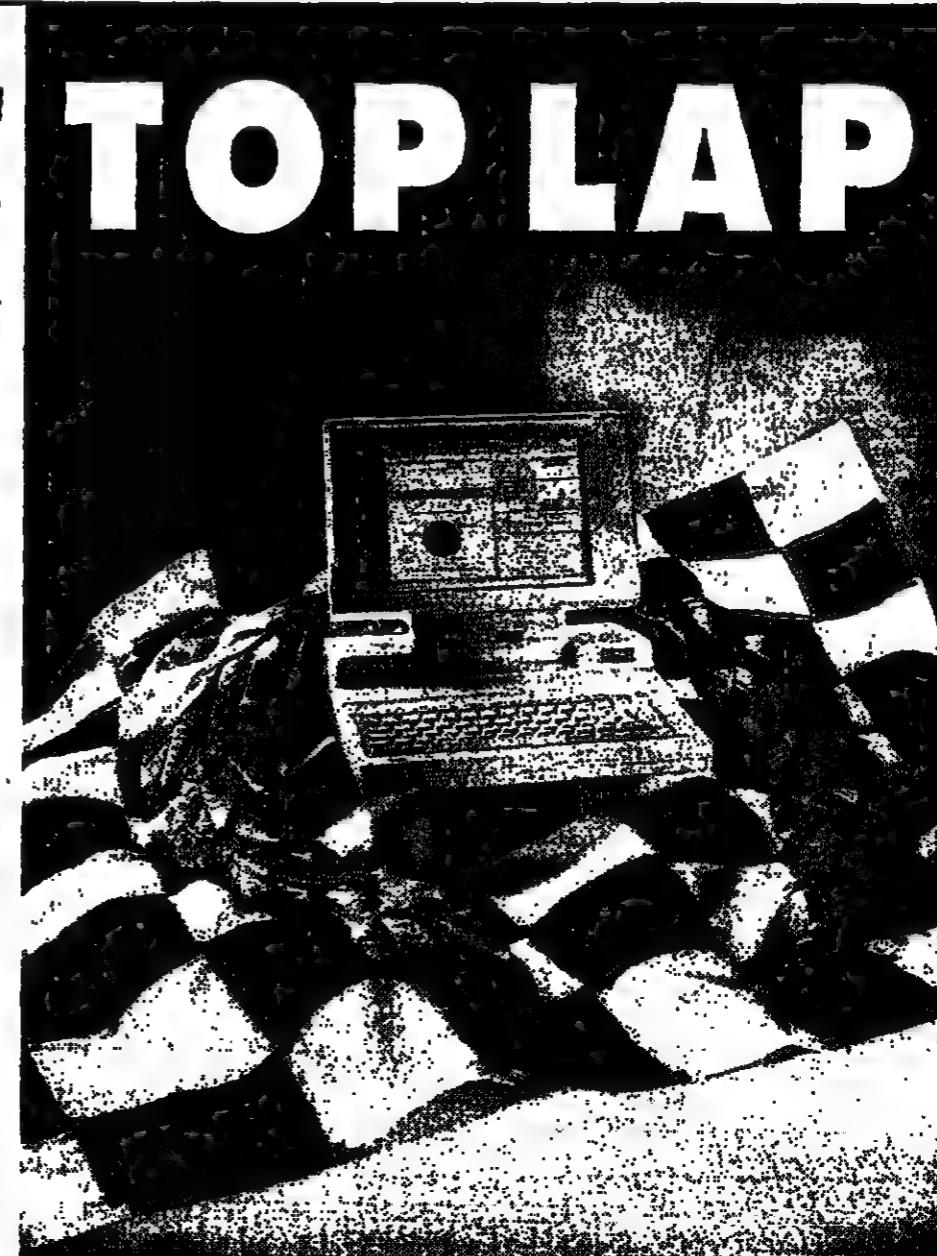
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Slimming the screen

Scientists are taking longer than expected to develop a television thin enough to hang on a wall. But will it catch on? George Cole reports

**F**or years, the electronics industry has been promising television sets which are so thin they will hang on the wall like a picture. Yet, despite all the advances in television technology, large flat television screens barely exist outside the laboratory or science fiction novel.

Television sets and computer monitors are bulky because they use a cathode ray tube (CRT). Developed more than 80 years ago, it works by firing a beam of electrons on to a phosphor-coated screen to produce tiny points of light called pixels.

Television pictures are made up of about half a million pixels and the greater the number of pixels, the sharper the image. CRTs give high picture quality and are cheap to make, but they are large, heavy and use lots of power.

Both the electronics and computer industries want to replace the CRT with flat-screen technology — although for different reasons. The electronics camp wants to develop compact video equipment with crystal-clear pictures; computer companies want portables with high-quality text and graphics.

Finding a replacement for the CRT has not been easy. But Dr Alan Knapp, leader of information display at Philips laboratories, says: "Making a flat-screen display is relatively simple; making it cheap enough to compete with the CRT is another story."

Front runners in the race for the flat-screen display are gas-plasma, electroluminescent, liquid crystal display (LCD) and the flat CRT.

Gas-plasma and electroluminescent displays work by passing a voltage through gases or chemicals which causes them to glow orange-red. Gas-plasma displays are thin — about half an inch thick — and some displays are more than 3ft across and comprise more than four million pixels.

But both systems are expensive

and cannot produce a full-colour display. As a result, they have so far been restricted to military and avionics use.

LCDs look more promising. These are made by sandwiching a thin layer of liquid crystals between two electrodes. When a voltage is passed through them they twist upright, altering the amount of light passing through. For television displays, the liquid crystals are arranged as a matrix of cells which represent pixels.

LCDs have the advantages of being small, light and using little power. The first LCDs were used in watches, calculators and pocket-sized televisions.

But these early sets gave coarse pictures because their screens were only 2in wide and comprised just 20,000 pixels.

Modern LCD televisions have 5in or 6in screens with almost 10 times as many pixels and use filters for full colour pictures. Sony, Hitachi and Panasonic market portable VCRs with 5in LCD screens.

Building larger LCDs is difficult because as the screen size increases, the picture becomes poorer. Scientists are developing "super twist" crystals for bigger and better LCDs.

Sharp has demonstrated a 14in LCD screen which is 1in thick, weighs less than 4lb and has more than 308,000 pixels. Each pixel is divided into four dots, giving a display with more than one million points of light. It is acceptable for television pictures, but is not good enough for computers.

Most lap-top computers use LCDs, but these are in monochrome and the text is not as clear as that from a CRT monitor. Hitachi and Toshiba recently demonstrated 10in full colour LCD screens with picture quality matching IBM's business graphics standard. Hitachi says its screen could be available by the end of the year.

Several companies, including JVC, Sharp and Toshiba, have



Dr Alan Knapp: we have the technology to make a flat screen but it is too expensive to produce

developed LCD projectors. The pictures they give are not as bright or clear as those obtained from film or CRT, but the quality is improving. JVC recently used an LCD projector in a Japanese cinema and found the audience reaction encouraging.

But not everyone has given up on the CRT. A number of groups are working on flat CRT systems, which will combine a small size

with performance. Matsushita, parent company to Panasonic, Technics and JVC, has developed a beam matrix television which combines CRT and LCD. In a beam matrix set, the phosphors are arranged on the screen in a flat matrix, like liquid crystals. But the set uses a stream of electrons to excite the phosphors, producing CRT picture quality.

Matsushita has demonstrated

16in and 4in screens, with respective thicknesses of four and 2.5 inches, but no marketing date has been set.

Despite the quest for flat-screen displays, millions of pounds is still being invested in CRT production. Knapp says: "The CRT will remain the dominant display system for many years to come. In the meantime, it will get nibbled at the edges by LCD systems."

## Nature's way to clean up

### Soil microbes are being used to reclaim one of the world's most polluted sites

Scientists are preparing to decontaminate one of Europe's most polluted sites using nature technologically speaking.

The land, nine environmentally unfriendly acres in the centre of Stockholm, formerly housed gas and coke works and a creosote plant. The land is soaked with pure creosote and stands beside a lake used for drinking water.

A Cardiff company, Biotreatment, has won the contract to make it safe by neutralizing the pollution with laboratory-grown soil microbes.

A gram of soil normally contains about 10 billion microbes. Consisting mainly of hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon and sulphur, these microorganisms are harmless to humans even if consumed, but in the soil they slowly break down the complex molecules of chemical pollutants into water and carbon dioxide.

Biotreatment's scientists analyze contaminated soil samples to identify the microbe strain that is attacking the pollutants, then grow it in enormous numbers to be applied in solution to the land to accelerate the degradation.

The company's first case for treatment was a 24-acre disused gasworks site at Blackburn, Lancashire, contaminated with tar, phenols, cyanides, spent oxides and other toxic compounds, typical pollutants in land vacated by Britain's declining industries.

The £340,000 reclamation, financed by a government Derelict Land Grant, took two years and earned Biotreatment a Royal Society of Arts award in 1987. Light industry is now established on the site for weeks.

The company also claims the technique is 20 per cent cheaper than conventional methods.

Dr John Rees, director and general manager, says: "We now have an opportunity to attack the pollutants in our soil. They cause damage to buildings and the contamination of water. And these problems are going to remain if you don't treat them in a thorough way."

Brian Collett

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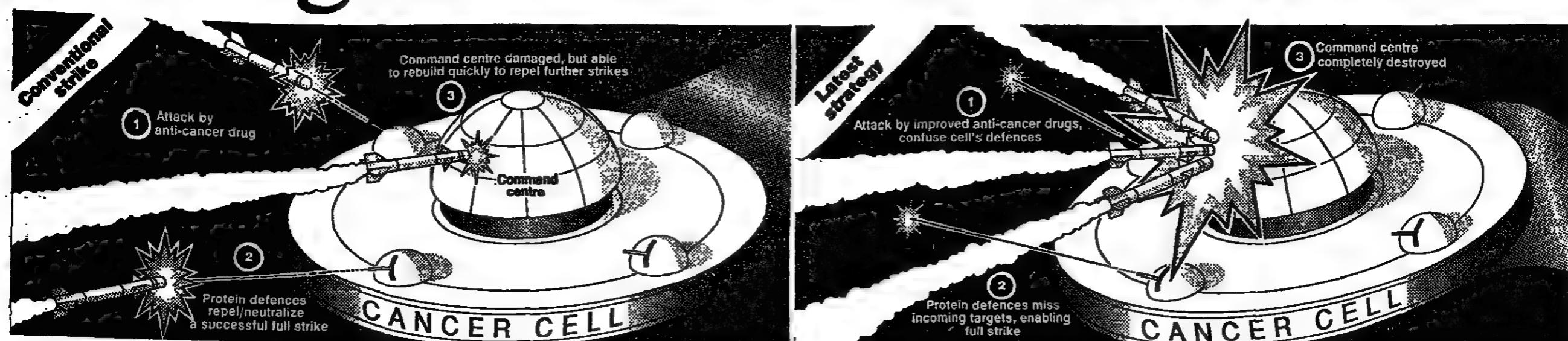
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Firing new shots in cancer war



**Scientists are testing weapons to break through the defences set up by cancer cells.**

**Thomson Prentice says this gives solid hopes for a cure to thousands with the disease**

**N**ew weapons are being developed in the war against cancer which will greatly enhance the prospects of survival for many thousands of sufferers in the next few years. Scientists in Britain and the United States are taking what may prove to be significant steps in control of the disease.

They are gaining fundamental insights into how cancer cells grow and thrive in the human body, and how they can be neutralized. Cancer is a cruel disease, not least because it so often stages a lethal comeback after apparently having been defeated. It has the power to resist even the most sophisticated drugs designed to combat it.

Now, however, means of overcoming this trait are being developed and tested on British patients. At the same time, Ameri-

can researchers believe they have devised a method of transforming cancerous cells back to normal.

Dog resistance has always been one of the greatest and most frustrating obstacles to curing cancer. While many patients respond well to initial treatment, some cancer cells survive and become invulnerable.

No matter which drugs are used, every year 90,000 people in Britain die because even after success in initial treatment, eventually the disease wins the contest, repelling chemotherapy or making it impotent.

It does so in three basic ways. Cancer cells can switch on a defensive system which rejects drugs before they can take effect. They can also deactivate the drugs.

If some of the drug does penetrate the cell, it may not

destroy it, and the damage can be repaired quickly.

However, doctors have discovered the existence in cancer cells of a protein, called P-glycoprotein, which effectively turns back a wide range of invading drugs aimed at reaching and destroying the core of the tumour.

From this insight, it is now possible to employ drugs which can thwart the protein, without diminishing their attacking power. These include verapamil, normally used to treat blood pressure problems, nifedipine, a calcium blocker, and high doses of tamoxifen, which is successful in the treatment of breast cancer.

After lengthy laboratory trials, these compounds are being tested on patients in a project organized by scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical oncology unit in Oxford.

Professor Adrian Harris, head of the Oxford team, says: "It's too early to speculate about cures and long-term survival, but studies now under way are showing that some patients respond to this new method of treatment. Our hope is that by the end of the decade, thousands more patients will be able to live normal, active lives with their disease under control."

**H**e and colleagues are also testing drugs which prevent cancer cells repairing themselves after a drug bombardment. This work could be important in the treatment of tumours, including lung cancer.

In a third development, it has been found that cancer cells can neutralize drugs by using proteins called glutathione S-transferases, or GST. To overcome this, Dr Roland Wolf, head of the ICRF molecular pharmacology and drug metabolism laboratory in Edinburgh, is trying to subvert the proteins so that they work with, rather than against, the drugs.

"In some forms of lung cancer, present treatment can remove all visible signs of the tumour, but one or two cancer cells survive and the tumour invariably regrows," he says. "This is an area of acquired drug resistance where we can come tantalizingly close to a cure, but we can't quite get there."

Monoclonal antibodies, chemical agents designed to seek out and stick to cancer cells, are becoming increasingly important in the accurate delivery of cell-killing drugs. Researchers believe that, when combined with resistance-weakening drugs, the effectiveness of these agents is boosted.

Meanwhile American research-

## JOBSERVICE

### Who controls key skills?

**The IT industry is fighting over which job standards scheme to adopt**

**G**overnment plans to create national vocational qualifications before 1992 are running into difficulties as professional organizations squabble over control of the skill standard.

The information technology industry has been trying to organize itself for the last year. One reason for the problem is that anyone can work in IT and there has been no huge demand from staff or employers for a formal registration system.

The British Computer Society (BCS) and the IT services companies' Computing Services Industry Training Council (Cosit) are both part of the National Council of Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) standards body, but they are at loggerheads.

Each operates career development schemes for companies to help their staff move up the skills ladder. There are bitter rows over which scheme should form the basis of the IT competence standards, and which organization should award NCVQ certificates to staff, as a charge is made for each one issued.

The debate is dividing the industry. There are problems when staff training under one scheme move to a company which operates only the competing scheme. A marked difference between the two is that Cosit's competence tests can be signed by any supervisor or manager while the BCS allows only its own members to certify competence.

Membership of the BCS is

### An American breakthrough with lasers threatens to put Britain in the shade

**C**ientists at the Bell Laboratories of the American telecommunications giant, AT&T, have built the world's first digital optical processor, which uses beams of laser light rather than the electric impulses of existing computers.

The development is a sign that Britain, once regarded as the leader in the field, could see yet another technology taken over and commercially developed by others.

The work is still at a primitive stage with the prototype - a 2ft square collection of lasers, lenses and prisms - only able to operate at a speed slower than most personal computers.

But optical computing, as it is known, promises machines that could be 1,000 times as fast as today's and could finally crack the problems in image and speech recognition that existing computers handle clumsily.

Optical systems offer the potential for far better vision systems in areas such as robots, and the ability for computers quickly to recognize complex images such as a particular human face from a live camera image.

They have the potential to handle millions of tasks simultaneously and their much faster speeds are seen as necessary for such projects as the mapping of the human genetic structure.

Optical computers use an array of laser beams, rapidly switched on and off, which are focused by lenses and then passed on to other optical switches using mirrors. Unlike existing chips, where information comes only from the edges, optical chips would be able to pass information from their surface.

AT&T's interests include using



Step ahead: Alan Huang helped develop the digital optical processor

the computers for switching telephone calls, which are themselves increasingly being sent as beams of light through fibre optic cables.

Describing the new processor as a technological milestone similar to the Wright brothers' first airplane, Alan Huang, head of the optical research department at Bell, foresees the possibility of a telephone call in which the spoken words can come out the other end after computer processing as a fax or written computer file. Similarly, he says, video phones could finally become commonplace in the household.

But further breakthroughs will be necessary before optical machines can become commercial products - not least the need to miniaturize the prototype to the size of a microchip so that it can be

For several years he has been warning that without better fund-

ing, Britain's lead in what could be a crucial computer technology would disappear by the end of the decade.

Four British scientists who used to work at Heriot-Watt, and who Huang says are crucially involved in the latest development, are working for AT&T.

"For a start there was a problem with salaries - one person who was earning £13,000 per year here is now getting more than \$60,000 - virtually three times as much," Smith says. "But more importantly the attraction is in the funding available, which must be 100 times as much as we have. Here we are struggling to get into the development of components outside of the laboratory."

Huang says: "We owe Desmond Smith a great debt of gratitude, but it is basically a question of resources. Here we have access to certain equipment that together would cost more than \$60 million."

Though Smith claims the development is not quite the world-first claimed, he agrees that AT&T is catching up and has reached a milestone.

**H**e has received funding over the past few years from the European Commission, the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), Boeing and the Pentagon for work connected with the Strategic Defense Initiative (so-called "star wars").

But Smith maintains that funding must be much more ambitious if Britain and Europe are to keep up.

"The SERC is looking at funding a joint Scottish project but only to the tune of £1 million. With five Scottish universities involved over four years, it works out at only £50,000 per university each year. We are looking for £10 million."

He hopes, however, that the AT&T announcement will attract attention and money into the field. He says he is talking to The Netherlands' Network Systems International, largely owned by AT&T, about work on a joint programme.

Matthew May

## 'Checking up on Einstein is now a matter of urgency'

Continued from page 35

**T**his apparent rush to spend such large sums of money in a field of research that has disappointing record results on other advances, particularly in laser technology. The new generation of detectors is based on laser beams that bounce back and forth along two stainless steel vacuum tubes, three kilometres long and 1.2 metres in diameter, that are placed at right angles to each other.

Laser light directed along each pipe is reflected continuously back and forth from mirrors suspended at the ends.

The apparatus is arranged to work on the principle that a gravity wave passing through the Earth will tend first to shorten one arm of the tubes, and lengthen the other; and then reverse the treatment.

Hough describes the effect as, first, like squeezing a rugby ball-shaped object to a football shape and then back again.

But that imperceptible movement to the eye would be measured by a momentary alteration in the phase of the laser light when it is reflected back along the pipe

from the mirror to a special detector. The influence of a passing gravity wave could scarcely be enough to be called a tremor in the accepted meaning of the word.

Hough says the movement detected by the laser system would be one-tenth of a millionth of a millionth of a millionth of a metre smaller than the diameter of an atom. But if the motion is caused by a gravity wave, the tiny change should be recorded by all the other observatories in the network.

The sites will be linked together by atomic clocks, ensuring that the scientists are certain they have detected the same event.

The use of four observatories and synchronizing them with atomic clocks would be critical for more than just locating the direction of a collapsing star or the effects of the black hole producing the signal.

Professor Bernard Schmitz, at the University of Wales, in Cardiff, has suggested how to use the time difference of the gravity signals arriving at a network of observatories, to calculate the distance to events occurring millions of light years across space.

An ability to measure that

distance would resolve the challenge against the method of measurement that astronomers have used over half a century to calculate the distance of galaxies, and hence infer the size and age of the universe.

It is based on a law devised by Edwin Hubble, an American astronomer, in 1929. It explains how light seen from Earth from a receding galaxy is "stretched out" and redder in colour. By measuring the degree of red, known as red-shift, the age and distance of celestial objects can be estimated.

Unfortunately, other mechanisms for causing red-shift have been discovered recently in addition to that taken into account by Hubble's law.

Hough says variations in the interpretation of the red-shift can alter calculations of the age of the universe by a factor of two.

But if the red-shift of a galaxy, quasar or star is observed optically and its distance measured from a gravitational event by the new observatories, then Hubble's constant and the age of the universe can be obtained in an unambiguous way.

Hough believes that gravity wave detectors could also resolve

critical but controversial issues such as ideas for the existence of stable cosmic strings, invisible loops of incredibly dense mass created in the instant after the Big Bang formed the universe billions of years ago.

Proof of the strings would be one of the most significant breakthroughs in astronomy since measurement of the bending of starlight by the Sun confirmed Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

**M**ore important, it would fill a missing gap with which astronomers have been struggling about how and when galaxies began to form.

When general relativity is applied to describing the behaviour of our own planet and our neighbours in the solar system, the predictions only differ from Newton's by a small amount.

Even so, the equations used by Einstein to describe his space-time universe produce some curious effects that some scientists find unexplainable.

According to the theory, a clock taken to the visible surface of the Sun would run slower by about a

minute a year, because of the Sun's stronger gravity, than if it had stayed on the Earth.

ingenious experiments in Britain and the US showed the same effect, with atomic clocks running slower if they were closer to the planet and its molten core.

When men first visited the Moon, they placed a reflector on the surface of the Moon. For more than 20 years it has been the target for laser beams shot by Earth-bound scientists, who have taken thousands of measurements using the light reflected back.

Checking the measurements against estimates based on Einstein's equation, the measured variations in those from the Moon agree to within 25 centimetres of calculation.

More astonishing and recently discovered phenomena such as gravitational lenses - in which twin images of a distant object are seen on Earth because of the way the gravity from an intervening galaxy bends the light - are taken as illustrations of relativity at work.

But it was the rash of discoveries including quasars, neutron stars, pulsars and black holes, in which the role of gravity itself

became a prime candidate as the supplier of energy, that has made checking up on Einstein a matter of urgency.

Explanations for their existence call on gravity having overwhelmed some of the forces that sustain, on Earth, the elements that make up the rocks of the planet and its molten core.

Ideas such as the immense gravitational forces of black holes, which would slow down clocks and life processes so greatly that a lapse of 10,000 years on Earth would seem like only a few weeks to a Voyager orbiting a black hole, have fired imaginations and raised questions of space and time.

A further paradox, on which the gravity wave observatory might shed some light, has arisen in the past two weeks.

It has come with the first results provided by the latest spacecraft from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) launched last November, called Cosmic Background Explorer (Cobe). These have thrown into doubt the existing theories of just how the first galaxies and stars were formed from the ball of hot hydrogen gas created by the Big Bang.



using a two-hour tape little larger than a postage stamp and providing digital recording - one of many digital audio tape products planned - and a pair of Walkman headphones that are claimed to be able to electronically reduce certain types of background noise, including aircraft engines.

**Bug in the chips**

Intel, the computer chip manufacturer, has discovered another bug in its powerful new processor, the 486, that will further delay the introduction of the latest generation of personal computers. An earlier bug, discovered in October, has been corrected, and Intel says the new problem can be dealt with by adding other logic devices rather than replacing the microprocessor. Compaq, which was due to start deliveries of computers using the new chip next week, says it does not know how long the bug will delay deliveries.

Matthew May

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



The green machine? David Willis and the motor which he says is powered by radio waves. "As I adjusted the timer to receive the station better the motor began hummin like a top," he says

## Towards a better mousetrap

**A** British inventor claims he has discovered a limitless source of clean power, tapping in to high frequency radio waves to run engines. David Willis, a disabled former Grenadier Guardsman, has developed a series of prototype motors to demonstrate fuel-less propulsion.

The 52-year-old Cornishman is convinced his discovery can play a vital role in curbing environmental destruction and global warming by rendering the internal combustion engine and its fossil fuels obsolete.

Willis, inventor of the world's first "indestructible paint", which has been used to protect the South African tanker, Kulu, and parts of Oldbury-on-Severn power station in Gloucestershire, accepts that his claims are "staggering".

Nevertheless, he welcomes any of the large electronics companies to scrutinize his work.

According to Richard Paine of Inventalink, a London consultancy that puts inventors in touch with commercial partners, the threat to the environment has become a near obsession among the nation's inventors.

He likens it to the effects of a ferry disaster which appears to galvanize everyone into action, spawning dozens of marine safety devices.

Where Willis differs, however, is that his invention is on a grand scale, with the touch of eccentricity that fits the popular image of inventors. Paine, a former advertising agency executive, says 10 years of the Thatcher Government has brought a more realistic attitude.

"More of the ideas we are seeing are very well presented. There is less of the scribbled figures and diagrams on the back of an envelope", says Charles Dawes, an inventor, and one of the three-man team that founded Inventalink eight years ago.

Greater use of word processors and computers to better present ideas highlights this trend towards professionalism. Inventors now talk about filling gaps or niches in the market rather than revolutionary ideas which nobody may want.

The exact number of inventors working in Britain is unknown but Inventalink sees about 1,000 annually. Some do it for a living, whereas others have turned a hobby into a consuming passion.

Their ideas range from Flicker Bear for children, a strap-on arm attachment that flashes bright colours at night, to a vessel that is part ship, part hovercraft.

The vessel, called a Hi-Ship, was designed by John Rilett, of Birbury, Gloucestershire. He claims it uses

the same power as a conventional craft, yet can travel twice as fast on its air-lifted hull.

To ensure the inventions registered have merit, Inventalink has formed links with experts in various fields. Only a fraction of inventors are finally taken on and promoted, given advice on patenting, presentation and a contract to protect from intellectual theft.

Some large companies still balk at the notion of independent inventors, but Dawes says. But many are starting to recognize the benefits of outside "ideasmens", people capable of cracking a design or engineering difficulty from an overview of the problem.

Some big companies employ a person specifically charged with

searching for outside inventions, he explained. Also, instead of beating a well worn path to a company's headquarters, Inventalink is starting to find that businesses are coming to it.

In an attempt to reach a wider audience for British inventions, the company has started publishing *Inventions*, a monthly newsletter. This is being distributed to leading companies to act as a shopping list for ideas and to spark interest in inventions.

Late one night, his work paid off.

"The radio wave was coming in from BBC Radio Cornwall and to my great astonishment it started to move, using no electricity. As I adjusted the timer to receive the station better the motor began hummin like a top," Willis says.

"The little thing just flew around."

Exact details of his design and its success are being kept under wraps, but he has built a transmitter and motors that he claims can turn a flywheel without fuel and run his grandson's pram.

Willis' other commercialized inventions have included a device for use on aircraft that leaks coloured dye if an engine bolt fails, is now designing a four-engined, 12ft wing-span plane for launch in summer.

A spokesman for the electronics group General Electric Company (GEC) says the company is highly sceptical that the device could be harnessed in a useful way, but adds that it would be happy to examine the prototype.

magnets, changing their polarity and causing them to move.

During the following months, he cobbled together contraptions consisting of a magnetic motor, a powerful receiver to collect radio waves, complete with microchip and an aerial.

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### SCIENCE REPORT

## Aids cure a step nearer

The fight against Aids moved a step further this week with the announcement of a new family of anti-viral chemicals, described by their discoverers as the most powerful found so far.

Reporting in today's issue of *Nature*, Rudolf Pavel of the Rega Institute for Medical Research in Belgium and colleagues show how the chemicals block an enzyme vital to the life-cycle of the Aids virus, HIV-1.

Whereas reverse transcriptase springs into action as soon as the virus invades the cell, HIV-1 protease enters the story much later, finishing the job started by reverse transcriptase.

The protease tailors the raw HIV-1 proteins ready for assembly into new virus particles. The American researchers' results show that after treatment with the protease inhibitor, cells infected with HIV-1 produce only deformed viral particles that are less infectious than normal HIV-1.

The new chemicals are also far more selective in the kinds of virus they will stop; unlike AZT, for example, TIBO derivatives have no effect on HIV-2, a strain of the Aids virus closely related to HIV-1.

Results are promising... there is the possibility that they will stop virus production'

The new TIBO derivatives, like AZT and other anti-Aids chemicals such as ddC and d4T, which are at present being tested, work by disabling reverse transcriptase, an enzyme without which HIV-1 cannot reproduce.

Reverse transcriptase performs its vital function at an early stage in the life cycle of HIV-1, soon after the virus has entered a healthy cell. TIBO derivatives, by blocking reverse transcriptase, prevent the virus from hijacking the cell's own biochemical machinery to make copies of itself.

Most anti-HIV drugs being developed, including TIBO derivatives, stop the virus at the beginning of its life cycle. But today's announcement follows another report describing the activity of a completely

David Concar

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The main area of research is towards the development of skilled robotics needed for automation, sensor technology, automatic control, expert systems, distributed handling mechanisms and robotics. Research within the group has strong industrial support through direct association with SKF, BAE, IBM, Lucas Engineering and Systems, GKN, Barber, British Steel, Vickers, Westland Helicopters, and others. Applications areas involve highly motivated graduates with good honours degrees in engineering or science disciplines. Salary scales in the range £10,458-£16,655. Applicants will be encouraged to register for a higher degree.

The appointed researchers will be required to take responsibility in the management of certain tasks which will be carried out within the UK and Europe. An ability to carry out multidisciplinary research as well as to work in a team is essential.

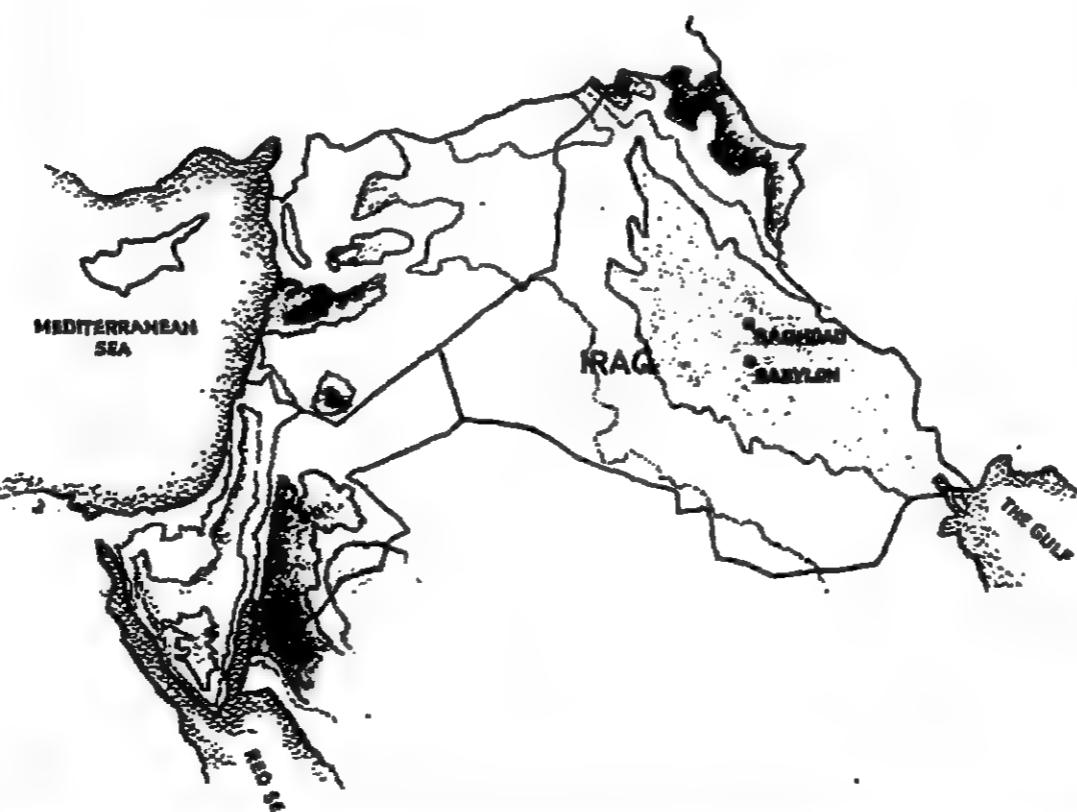
The work will be supported by the extensive research facilities available to the group, backed by other resources from the Faculty of Engineering. Informal enquiries may be made to Mr K. Khodabandehloo on Bristol (0272) 303240.

For further details telephone Bristol 302136 (answering machine after 5 p.m.) or write to the Personnel Office, Senate House, Bristol BS1 1TH. Please quote Reference 20.

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مكتبة من الأصل

CRICKET: UNIVERSITIES HAND OUT A LESSON AS SOUTH AFRICA NAMES ITS SIDE FOR THE FIRST FIVE-DAY INTERNATIONAL.

# Emburey and Foster lead recovery as English XI struggle

From Richard Streeton, Bloemfontein

Only determined batting by Emburey and Foster in an eight-wicket stand spared the English XI the embarrassment of having to follow on against the South African Universities here yesterday. The pair put on 76 during 26 tense overs and their team's deficit was restricted to 116 runs. The Universities lost wickets rapidly when they batted again and were 62-5 by the close.

As the players left the field, the names of the South African team for the first of the two five-day internationals starting in Johannesburg next Thursday became known. Rice, the deposed captain, has lost his place, as expected, and McEwan, another senior player familiar to English crowds, has also been omitted. It is the first representative side South Africa has had to choose since the second tour by Kim Hughes's Australian team in 1986-87.

Accurate seam bowling by Stefan Jacobs was primarily responsible for the breakdown by the English team's batting. During his first seven overs, he had Barnett and Robinson held at second slip and gully, and then deceived Maynard with a near yorker. He went on to finish with five wickets. Jacobs, aged 23, is in his second season with Transvaal. A nagging length, with just a

## Stylish Bevan hits 74 to beat Pakistan

Camberra (Reuters) - Pakistan suffered their sixth defeat on their tour of Australia yesterday when a Prime Minister's XI beat them by 81 runs in a one-day match.

Michael Bevan, of South Australia, scored a stylish 74 off 82 deliveries and Virendra Sharma 50 to take the home side to 265 for eight off 50 overs.

Pakistan never threatened in reply after slipping from 54 for four to 97 for five.

Bevan, 30, scored 20-28-4 over 40 balls; 74, J. Cox 85, M. R. Velani 60; Parasuram 185-7 (50 overs); Younis 64 not out; Prime Minister's XI won by 81 runs.

hint of movement, helped him keep everyone subdued.

Broad was the only Englishman to suggest he was in touch before he and Wells were out in successive overs. Wells failed to beat a good return from Steyn at mid-wicket; Broad was taken in the slips as he drove loosely. Then, Cowdrey was bowled around his legs trying to sweep Eeksteen, a left-arm spinner, and French was brilliantly caught at deep square leg by Hudson diving to his right.

The English XI were 62 runs short of saving the follow-on as Emburey and Foster came together. Both had several alarms but managed to survive. Foster finally lifted a catch to long-off; Emburey was last out hitting across the line after bating 3¾ hours.

Dilley, who batted with a runner, is not expected to take any further part in the game, but his troublesome left knee may allow him to play at the weekend. Foster and Jarvis each took a wicket in their first over when the Universities began their second innings, or a pitch starting to yield variable bounce.

On the political front, there were no incidents reported from the townships during the day, though the National Sports Congress (NSC) staged another peaceful demonstration, involving about 1,200

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# Charlie Nose can continue to justify Henderson's investment

By Mandarin  
(Michael Phillips)

Nicky Henderson looks poised to pull off a double at Towcester today with Charlie Nose (2.25) and First Bout (3.55).

Having paid 34,000 guineas for Charlie Nose at Doncaster two years ago, the successful Lambourn trainer will be particularly pleased if he manages to win the EBF Novices' Chase because he still owns him.

Furthermore, it will also justify his decision to withdraw him at the proverbial eleventh hour from a similar race at Plumpton on Monday, which he appeared to have at his mercy, because the ground on the Sussex track had deteriorated so badly.

First bout looks to have a good chance of winning the Yardley Cobton Handicap Chase even under top weight.

He was by no means disgraced at Kempton 12 days ago when he finished approximately seven lengths behind One More Knight and Katahdin at Kempton.

Nobody would cheer more loudly than myself if their stable companion Le Piccaglia were to complete a Henderson treble by winning the second division of the Marston Novices' Hurdle.

The horse in question was so named to fulfil memories of the late Reverend Bob Greaves, the vicar of Chaddsworth, who often

reproduced the form that saw him account for Knight Oil on today's track in December. However, as he has disappointed both in appearance in the paddock and in the race itself at Ascot since Charlie Nose looks the safer bet.

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The horse in question was so named to fulfil memories of the late Reverend Bob Greaves, the vicar of Chaddsworth, who often

won at Fontwell Park in the style of a horse likely to continue to pay his way.

Obviously, Mighty Fine will be hard to beat if he can

get past Charlie Nose.

First

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Charlie

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The Times reports from the XIV Commonwealth Games in Auckland

# World must shed burden of weightlifting

Weightlifting may finally have exhausted the patience of the International Olympic Committee. Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, said yesterday that at its next meeting in Belgrade in April the executive board would study carefully the latest scandals of positive drug testing at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

Weightlifting's repeated abuse of sporting ethics is such that, in my opinion, it should be suspended from all multiple events, such as the Olympic, Commonwealth and Asian Games, for a minimum of three years, with the demand that it puts its house in order

## Martin all on her own in record marathon

Lisa Martin, of Australia, ran alone along the Auckland waterfront on Wednesday to retain the Games marathon title in a Games best time of 2hr 25min 28sec.

The 29-year-old Olympic silver medal winner was in a class of her own, taking a lead of 100 metres over the other 14 competitors in the first kilometer.

At the 5km mark she was more than a minute ahead of Tani Ruckle and steadily increased her lead on a cool, overcast morning.

Martin chose to run in Auckland instead of challenging Ross Mota, the Olympic champion in lucrative race in Osaka, Japan. She was on target to improve her best time - 2hr 23min 51sec set in Osaka two years ago - for the first half of the race but slowed over the later stages as the strain of battling a first-class wind on her tow took its toll.

Ruckle held second place to take the silver in 2hr 33min 16sec and Angela Pain, of England, was third in 2hr 36min 35sec.

Mick Hill will cast friendship aside on Saturday when he goes after the scalp of 20-year-old Steve Backley, who has emerged from the junior ranks to rob him of his status as the Commonwealth's finest javelin thrower.

Hill, aged 25, of Yorkshire, gets on like a house on fire with Backley, winner of the World Cup last year, but admits there will be no love lost once they clash in the Mount Smart Stadium.

"Steve's a mate of mine," Hill said. "We've been training together in America before we came out here, and we've had a few good laughs together. But we'll be deadly rivals once we get out there on Saturday."

Less than three years ago, Hill smashed the Commonwealth record with a throw of 85.24 metres in Stockholm and was seemingly on the verge of breaking the world record.

But then it all went wrong. He suffered two seasons of injury problems just as Backley began to emerge excitingly from the junior ranks.

Hill's improving form last summer showed him that he could regain his form of 1987: he was the only Briton to beat Backley, last season, albeit in a low-key end-of-season meeting in Thurrock.

Backley, who won World Cup, European Cup, World Student Games and Grand Prix titles last year, recognises that Hill, along with New Zealand's Gavin Lovegrove, pose the main danger.

Lovegrove, the 22-year-old hometown favourite, looks to be the only man likely to spoil it for the Englishman. He has thrown 83.90 metres during the current New Zealand season and will have a partisan crowd backing him all the way in Mount Smart Stadium.

## Old rivals to stage showpiece

Richie Woodhall, of England, will have a gold medal battle with his best Canadian rival, Ray Downey, in a showpiece finale to the Commonwealth boxing tournament in Auckland tomorrow.

The two men both clinched light-middleweight bronze medals at the Seoul Olympics and their careers have progressed almost in tandem ever since.

They have clashed twice before. First in the semi-final of the 1988 Canada Cup when Woodhall emerged triumphant, but the score was levelled at last year's Cup when Downey gained revenge on his way to the junior ranks.

Woodhall, a 21-year-old fighter from Telford, looked slightly sluggish, but sharper than his opening bout, to match a semi-final points win over Silvio Figolla, of West ern Samoa.

The Englishman will be aiming to stop a Canadian run of four successive light-middleweight gold medals in the Commonwealth Games.

The progress of Downey, the Canadian team captain, was far less conclusive than Woodhall's. In his debut against the New Zealand hope, Andy Creer, in two rounds.

Scotland's last hope of a boxing gold medal rests with Charlie Kane, but the Clydebank light-welterweight's undulating pace, over Steffan Scriven, of Australia, will hardly inspire confidence in his meeting with the Kenyan, Nicodemus Odore.

Britain's tally of bronze medals was finalized at three with the completion of the semi-finals: Dave Anderson (light-weight), of Scotland, Mark Edwards (middleweight), of England, and Paul Douglas (super-heavyweight), of Northern Ireland.

**David Miller**

before it is readmittited. The disgrace it continually brings upon other sports as well as itself is totally unacceptable.

Soumy de Sales, the new chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation, said last night: "I need to give the situation considerable thought. The federation's executive board must investigate all the details. We should perhaps remember that there has been no suggestion, for

instance, that athletics should be banned for its similar misdemeanours."

The caution of de Sales, having just assumed office, is understandable; yet tolerance of the abuse by weightlifting has run dry. The sport is corrupt throughout and the latest evidence of two positively tested Welshmen and an Indian in Auckland is the last straw.

Weightlifting was riddled with positive tests in the Olympic Games in Seoul, even if Ben Johnson was the most notable offender of those Games. The Bulgarian weightlifting team was sent home, Hungary threatened to

suspend its team from future competitions and Canada's ranks were scarred by random tests before departure for Seoul. I doubt if there is a single innocent nation in the world.

It is irrelevant that Dr Tamás Aján, the Hungarian general secretary of the International Weightlifting Federation, says that the offenders are from the lower ranks. So what? Responsibility rests at the top, and until weightlifting can guarantee that its ranks are clean, it should be removed from collective international events.

If it wishes to have corrupt private world championships,

that is its own affair, but there is no reason why weightlifting should constantly tarnish the rest of sport. The guilty weightlifters in the Commonwealth Games have been detected only by a random testing system, used for economy measures. What might the result have been had every medalist been tested?

Sam Coffi, the president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, said yesterday that he was disappointed that all medalists had not been tested.

It is significant that Subrata Ranjan Paul, the Indian tested positive in the lightweight division, had not

been tested previously because India has no adequate testing facilities. In Auckland the samples for testing have had to be sent to Sydney at a cost of \$120 a time.

It is no excuse for senior officials of the sport to suggest that the responsibility lies with coaching, or that the competitors found positive are lacking in intelligence. If there is not the competence to run the sport properly, then that is its own misfortune. It is, of course, the general practice that coaches are former competitors, and so the practice of drug abuse revolves in a vicious circle.

Nor is there the excuse,

which might be put forward in athletics, that competitors are tempted by financial rewards. The element of financial greed does not exist in weightlifting, and even the social advantages previously attainable in Eastern European countries are now disappearing with the shift away from communist state-sponsored competitors.

Even those weightlifters who may be innocent of abuse are well aware that if they win a medal the almost automatic response of others, both within their sport and outside, is to wonder whether they were on drugs. Such a sport has no place on the international stage.

## Judo team captain rises to the challenge

From Nicolas Soames

Although by the end of the second day of the Commonwealth judo tournament England's record of winning every category was still intact, it had been, in the words of middleweight Deneigh White, "ouch and go, with more touch."

Sharon Mills, aged 19, from Swinton, Manchester, used her reliable armlocking skills to add a fifth gold, from the middle-weight division, to the four won on Tuesday and it was White, the England captain and the most highly accomplished technician in the men's team who very nearly came unstuck.

He had to make a struggle in the semi-final to overcome the raw strength of an Australian, Chris Bacon. "I knew when I saw my draw that Bacon would be my hardest fight — there was only one throw between us when I beat him in the British Open last year," White said.

Had started in a most impressive fashion by throwing the home favourite Bill Vincent with a spinning *tsui-otsuri* (body drop) for *ippon* (10 points in just 39 seconds).

White knew it would not be as easy against Bacon, aged 20, who had trained for three years in Kendal and knew White's techniques well, although he nearly scored with an *ouchi-gari* in the first minute. But three minutes into the fight Bacon dived under the Wolverhampton man's defence and knocked him down for *koka* (three points).

White had to do all the equalizing. He worked hard to equalize, but a scoring technique seemed to evade him. "He is physically very strong but I felt him begin to panic," White said. In the final minute Bacon received a penalty of three points for a negative play and nine seconds from the end was penalized again, for repeating the offence.

This proved a mere formality against Winston Sweetman, of Scotland, a mathematician who is currently working on star cluster models at Edinburgh University. The Scot was sent into orbit with a superb *seoi-otsuri* (shoulder drop throw) for *ippon*.

Sharon Mills also had two 10-point victories and one more testing fight. She armlocked Nichola Morris (New Zealand) in 49 seconds to the first round and used a different manoeuvre against Joyce Malley (Northern Ireland) but also concluded with an armlock.

Mills was determined to get on a good show for her team and sold the family estate car to be able to fly out to watch her. "I knew the final was going to be my hardest fight," she said after getting the Karen Hayde, of Canada.

Mills received special instructions on hit and run fighting from the women's team coach, Roy Iman, and these worked perfectly. She scored five points for *uke* from the very first shoulder throw and added a *koka*, worth three points a little later. Although counted in the last minute she managed to retain her lead.

The six gold medals have put extra pressure on those still to fight but the team manager, Arthur Mapp, expects further successes. He said: "We are not only doing well because the opposition is not so strong. Everyone is giving a lot more of themselves because these are the Commonwealth Games."

## Irish jaunt brings unexpected medal

From Peter Bryan

Alastair Irvine, whose most recent job was in a snooker centre in Bangor, Co Down, was an unlikely medal winner on the cycling track for Northern Ireland yesterday when he took the bronze in the 50km points race.

Irvine, who has done little track racing, arrived at the Mullingar velodrome having trained there only once, accompanied by Northern Ireland's other entry, David McCall.

"We came along just to support the event, that's all," he said. "It's the Friendly Games, we have nothing to lose so David and I decided just to get stuck in and see what happened."

Irvine was one of the six members of Northern Ireland's team which was picked to concentrate on the 100km road race trial and the 105 miles road race. The track riders were never seriously entertained, as the team wanted to repeat or improve on its bronze medal in 1986.

England are unlikely to field their best road man, Ben Luckwell. The Bristol rider has a knee injury following a bizarre accident. His handlebars snapped during a race yesterday, jamming his front wheel with such force that the machine's fork also broke. Luckwell was taken to hospital for treatment and released.

**Troke forced to fight for semi-final spot**

The No 1 seed, Helen Troke, who is attempting to win the women's singles title for the third successive time, had to struggle for nearly as long before reaching the semi-finals at the Commonwealth Games.

Troke, from Southampton, beat Madhushni Bish, of India, 11-5, 11-11, 11-6, in 45 minutes. Hall beat Kenjiro Matsubara, of Japan, 11-5, 11-3, 11-5, in 45 minutes. Both players had been beaten in the first round by Adrian Murray, of Australia.

Troke aged 27, waited two hours before he learnt that his total of 583 points had brought him a one-point victory over Patrick Murray, of Australia.

Michael Jay, of Wales, took the bronze.

"We all shoot 30 rounds and I was the first on today, so I did my best and then had to hang around," Troke said.

Malcolm Cooper, of Hayling Island, who has won 27 Olympic and Commonwealth titles, performed well below his best to finish with the silver medal in the three-position rifle event, with Marti Klepp, of Canada, taking the gold.

Troke was deducted two points when it was claimed he had taken 41 instead of the required 40 shots in the kneeling section. A protest by the England team was rejected.

Jorge help Italia

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The six gold medals have put extra pressure on those still to fight but the team manager, Arthur Mapp, expects further successes. He said: "We are not only doing well because the opposition is not so strong. Everyone is giving a lot more of themselves because these are the Commonwealth Games."

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This proved a mere formality against Winston Sweetman, of Scotland, a mathematician who is currently working on star cluster models at Edinburgh University. The Scot was sent into orbit with a superb *seoi-otsuri* (shoulder drop throw) for *ippon*.

Sharon Mills also had two 10-point victories and one more testing fight. She armlocked Nichola Morris (New Zealand) in 49 seconds to the first round and used a different manoeuvre against Joyce Malley (Northern Ireland) but also concluded with an armlock.

Mills received special instructions on hit and run fighting from the women's team coach, Roy Iman, and these worked perfectly. She scored five points for *uke* from the very first shoulder throw and added a *koka*, worth three points a little later.

Although counted in the last minute she managed to retain her lead.

The six gold medals have put extra pressure on those still to fight but the team manager, Arthur Mapp, expects further successes. He said: "We are not only doing well because the opposition is not so strong. Everyone is giving a lot more of themselves because these are the Commonwealth Games."

White knew it would not be as easy against Bacon, aged 20

FOOTBALL: SCOTLAND CONTINUE THEIR WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS BY ENLISTING THE SKILLS OF A FORMER FAVOURITE

# Jordan called up to help win over the Italian brotherhood

By Roddy Forsyth

Joe Jordan, who in his days as a player made decisive contributions towards Scotland's progress in the World Cup, has been summoned to assist the cause once more, Andy Roxburgh revealed yesterday. The Scotland coach also announced his plans to win the hearts and minds of the population of Genoa, where his team will play two of their matches in this summer's final.

Roxburgh said: "Joe will help us in a number of capacities. Basically, he will be a public relations officer because he speaks fluent Italian, which he picked up in his playing days with AC Milan. But he also has the knowledge to be helpful on the technical side. For example, I could foresee that he would watch the opposing teams in our group, and give us the benefit of his assessment of them."

## Callaghan says fee is too high

By Chris Moore

Nigel Callaghan, of Aston Villa, the target-seeking winner, last night accused Graham Taylor, the manager, of pricing him out of the market. "I appreciate Villa want their money back but for that to happen I need to be in the first team," Callaghan said. He cost £500,000 from Derby County almost a year ago.

Since being dropped in September he has made only one appearance, as substitute. "I have shown a lot of patience by keeping my head down and concentrating on my game but that is getting me nowhere," he said.

"I am just wasting my career and have no chance of being picked for the first team. That is the manager's choice, but the price he has put on me is frightening off other clubs. I would have thought £300,000 rather than £500,000 was a fair figure."

Sheffield United have completed the signing of the Hull City forward Billy Whitehurst for a fee of £35,000 but he will not be included in the team to play Hull on Saturday.

Scarborough have signed Kevin Dixon, a forward from York City, on a month's loan. Dixon, who has been left out of the York team since the signing of David Longhurst from Peterborough, will make his Scarborough debut against Colchester on Saturday.

Steve Archibald, the former Scottish international forward, has signed for Espanol, the Spanish second division club and could play in Sunday's game against promotion rivals Castellon.

Archibald passed a stiff medical examination in a Barcelona clinic before becoming the Spanish club's third overseas player.

The £100,000 fee will be paid direct to the player, who bought out the remainder of his contract with Hibernian last week before flying to Spain to negotiate terms with Espanol, who have agreed to employ Archibald for the remainder of this season. But if they are promoted, he will receive a bonus and the option to extend his contract for a further season.

Archibald, aged 33, who played for Barcelona until 1988, said he was happy to return to the city of Barcelona, although he claimed to have received offers from two clubs in Britain.

## BASKETBALL

### Tournament rescued by the Danes

Danmark have confirmed that they will take the place of Wales in the international men's tournament at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from April 20 to 22, which also includes England and Ireland.

The organizers had been left with a severe headache when the Welsh pulled out, as they felt they could use the money they had available to give them more appropriate competition. But the Scottish Basketball Association (SBA) confirmed yesterday that Denmark had agreed to fill the void and will join Scotland, England and Ireland in the tournament.

"The Danes will be of a similar standard to ourselves and England," Ken Johnston, the technical director of the SBA, said. "But if we can play as well as we did against Sweden last September and have everyone available, I would fancy our chances of beating Denmark and England."

Scotland will also face England in an under-17s international fortnight tomorrow in Corby. Pupils from Grangemouth High and Portobello High make up almost half of the squad, which was announced yesterday.

The Scottish girls will also participate in the Four Counties Tournament in Cardiff on March 9 and 10.

## Scotland squad

J Leighton (Manchester United), A Goran (Leeds), S Gault (Norwich), S Clarke (Clydebank), S Jepson (Dundee United), S McNamee (Aberdeen), A McLean (Aberdeen), C Leaven (Hearts), W Miller (Aberdeen), D MacPherson (Hearts), G R Aitken (Newcastle), J McAllister (Preston), Collins (Hibernian), S McColl (Everton), M Livermore (Brentford), P McErlane (Leeds), G McMaster (Leicester), G Doherty (Sheffield), M Johnson (Rangers), A McNeice (Sheffield), M Steele (Middlesbrough), N St John (Norwich), D Cooper (Nottingham), P New (Sheffield).

Roxburgh has also asked Graeme Souness if he would be in a position to assist, in view of his playing career with Sampdoria — one of the two Genoa teams — but the Rangers manager had already made other arrangements for the second stage at the first time of asking.

Roxburgh said: "Joe will help us in a number of capacities. Basically, he will be a public relations officer because he speaks fluent Italian, which he picked up in his playing days with AC Milan. But he also has the knowledge to be helpful on the technical side. For example, I could foresee that he would watch the opposing teams in our group, and give us the benefit of his assessment of them."

## Courtney selected in referees' panel

By Steve Acteson

George Courtney has been chosen as the only English referee who will officiate at the World Cup in Italy next summer. In a break with precedent, however, the hosts and France will provide two referees each. In the past, FIFA, the game's governing body, has never selected more than one official from the same country.

There were mixed feelings at the Football Association. Colin Downey, the FA referees secretary, expressed delight that Courtney, aged 45, from Spennymoor, County Durham, had been chosen for the second consecutive World Cup but was disappointed at the exclusion of the Sheffield referee, Keith Hackett.

Courtney, who is in the first year of his "extension" having reached the official retirement age, has refereed FA, League, UEFA and Cup Winners' Cup finals and was on duty last night at the FA Cup replay between Liverpool and Norwich.

Hackett, aged 45, was the only English referee at the European Championships, and Downey said: "Although Keith has had injury problems he has completely recovered and certainly we hoped he would be chosen because we regard George and Keith as very much on a par in terms of ability."

Alan Stoody, from Belfast, will be one of the youngest World Cup referees at the age of 35 and Scotland will have a representative in George Smith, of Edinburgh.

FIFA have named 36 referees, including 19 from Europe, seven from Latin America, three each from Africa, Asia and CONCACAF, and one each from Central American Federation and one from Oceania. Richard Lorenz of Australia, a two-day course will be held in Pisa in March to ensure that all referees interpret the rules in the same way.

Downey approved the list of European names, saying: "I am sure they are the men their countries would have wished to see appointed."

He was not surprised at the dual representations nor that the non-qualified, Denmark and Northern Ireland, are represented while some of the qualifiers, including the Republic of Ireland, are not.

The referees are very much chosen on merit from FIFA performances and next time you may well have several referees from one country and none from another," Downey said.

EUROPEAN WORLD CUP REFEREES: M. Berti (Italy), G. Cattaneo (France), G. Caviglia (Spain), G. Caviglia (Poland), K. Rosenthaler (Switzerland), A. Schmidbauer (West Germany), G. Courtney (England), N. Kots (Austria), M. Lazzari (Italy), G. Vassalli (Italy), G. Scattolon (Scotland), E. Serrano (Spain), T. Lemes and L. Agnelli (Italy). E. Fredericksen (Denmark), A. Kessissoglou (Greece), Z. Peres (Hungary), A. Sotiriadis (Greek Islands), P. Mikellson (Denmark), C. Sime Vazquez (Portugal).

The annual accounts of Luton Town published yesterday show that the struggling first division club would have lost more than £1 million last season but for the sale of their Knebworth Road ground to the local council for £23.25 million, and the sale of the forward player, David Oldfield, to Manchester United, and the defender, Mal Donaghy, to Manchester United, for £1.4 million (Steve Acteson writes).

Even offset by player purchases the manager, Mick Harford, showed a profit of £600,000 on transfers made but overall the club made a profit of only £586,000.

The repayment of debts to directors were the main outgoings. David Evans, the chairman until June, was repaid a loan of £280,000 and also received £221,000 interest.

Other directors received smaller sums, with the new chairman, Roger Smith, being repaid a loan of £397,000 and paid interest of £285,000.

In December Luton sold Roy Wegerle to Queens Park Rangers for £1 million and another forward player, Mick Harford, to Derby County for £480,000. Luton will benefit from both in the first division.

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) is looking into a report that Manchester United have signed a Cardiff-born youngster on their books from playing for Wales.

The FAW and the Welsh Schools FA have been told that United stopped Ryan Wilson from playing in a UEFA under-16 international in November because they feared that the appearance would lead to him being classified as a "foreign player" at Old Trafford, under rules proposed by UEFA.

The regulation would restrict the number of "foreign" players a team can use in UEFA competitions and United wanted to have Ryan available when English clubs are allowed back into Europe. The rule change is due to be discussed inStockholm tomorrow and could be implemented in 1992. A clause in it would designate Welsh and presumably Scottish players playing in England as "foreigners".

Middlesbrough, of the second division, ended Aston Villa's unbeaten run of 11 matches with a 2-1 win at Villa Park yesterday for the first time after the second leg of the Zenith Data Systems Cup northern area final at Ayresome Park next week.

John Beck, the Cambridge

manager, said: "Our will to win was far greater and that is what sealed it for us."

Dave Bassett, the manager of Stevenage United, made a hasty return to an old training ground. He went back to Victoria Road, where he was briefly the manager of Watford, and United won the replay 2-1 to earn a fifth round home tie with Barnsley. Bassett said: "I've had some unhappy times at Watford and I can't deny that I wasn't the most popular player here but that is history now."

Cambridge, who play Bristol City in the fifth round, deserved their victory, but this was no consolation to John Docherty, the manager of Millwall, who managed Cambridge in the most successful period in the club's history, nor to Branagan, once of Cambridge, who played brilliantly before being undoubtably by his colleagues.

Cambridge, aged 33, who played for Barcelona until 1988, said he was happy to return to the city of Barcelona, although he claimed to have received offers from two clubs in Britain.

For the RECORD

1. Michael O'Neil; Watford 7, Sheffield United 1, Birmingham 1, Coventry 1, Luton 1, Leyland DAP Cup; Chester 1, Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Wrexham 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

2. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

3. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

4. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

5. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

6. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

7. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

8. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

9. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

10. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

11. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

12. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

13. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

14. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

15. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

16. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

17. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

18. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

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20. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

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43. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

44. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

45. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

46. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

47. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

48. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool 1, Stockport 1, Wigan 1, Yeovil 1, Zetland Trophy.

49. Michael O'Neil; Hartlepool

# Weightlifting to be subjected to official inquiry

By John Goodbody

As a second Welsh weightlifter was disqualified from the Commonwealth Games for doping, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday flew to Auckland, planning an inquiry into drug abuse.

Moynihan, a notable fighter against the illegal use of drugs, wants the investigation as a follow-up to the inquiry that he and Sebastian Coe held in 1987. It will concentrate on weightlifting, after the disclosures of dope-taking in the sport by *The Times* last November and the state of positive tests both before and after the Games.

Britain now faces an international ban from the sport for a year, because of the number of competitors who have tested positive within a 12-month period.

Moynihan, who is attending the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Conference on Sunday, would like the Olympic 1,500 metres champion to join him in the investigation, which he had considered carrying out even before the revelations in New Zealand.

Basil George, the Welsh deputy team manager, said that Gareth Hives, who won three silver medals in the 100kg class, had become the second Welsh lifter to fail a drug test at the Games. Another Welshman, Ricky Chaplin, and Subratkumar Paul, of India, have already been stripped of their weightlifting medals after being tested positive.

Moynihan said before leaving London: "I will continue



Hives stripped of medals

Weightlifters Association (BAWLA) and yesterday Osric Wheately, the vice-chairman of the Welsh Sports Council, warned that financial support to the sport in the Principality could be withdrawn.

He said: "The governing body will be called to account when they return from Auckland. There is going to be a far-reaching inquiry into how and why two lifters took drugs and where they got the banned substances from."

The Welsh Sports Council has such a strong policy over drugs that it has refused to give grants to four governing bodies, which refused to co-operate with its testing programme. Last year, the Council tested 46 lifters in competition, including 12 Welshmen. Only one, an Irishman, was found positive, when he took part in an international event.

Because of lack of finance it could not afford out-of-competition testing. However, this will come in through the British Sports Council, which shortly will carry out a new programme of out-of-competition sampling, with competitors being required to provide urine for analysis, with a maximum of only 48 hours notice.

Hives, aged 23, a steel-worker from Port Talbot, was sixth in the mid-heavyweight class at the 1986 Games before moving up to the heavier division. He was fourth in the 1989 international Silver Dragon competition behind Nicu Vlad, of Romania, a descendant of Vlad the Impaler, who gave birth to the Dracula legend.

In New Zealand yesterday George said: "It is the biggest smack in the teeth we have ever had. I have never known a Commonwealth Games team that has been hit so rigid as this one. Unfortunately, two people, who want to put something down their throats or whatever they do with the drugs, have put a whole team in disrepute. But the team cannot be blamed as a whole."

The Sports Council had set up an inquiry into drug abuse in weightlifting after a request by the British Amateur

Association.

Moynihan said before leaving London: "I will continue

## Paul's job in jeopardy

Calcutta (AFP) — Subratkumar Paul, who tested positive for steroids in the Commonwealth Games after winning two silver medals and a bronze at weightlifting, may lose his job on the Indian railways.

A railway spokesman said yesterday that Paul might be suspended from service until the department had investigated.

## Champion condemns lifters

Lynn Davies, the Welsh sporting hero who won a long jump gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was at the forefront of the nation's condemnation of the two disgraced weightlifters yesterday.

Davies, in Auckland as a television commentator, said: "There are no excuses for it, because at the end of the day it is cheating. It's a sad day for Welsh sport."

"The Welsh team can't believe anyone could have been so silly as to risk taking drugs, especially after the Seoul Olympics when the whole Bulgarian weightlifting team was sent home."

"I think it's absolutely right that they are banned because the only way to fight drug taking is to impose very, very severe penalties."

## Tactics missing in Tau's double first

From David Rhye Jones, Auckland

Genua Tau won Papua New Guinea's first Commonwealth Games gold medal — and the first bowls medal — when her uncomplicated approach took her to a 25-18 win over Millie Khan, of New Zealand, in the women's singles final. Tactics did not concern her, she simply drew close to the jack at every opportunity.

Trailing 9-10 after 14 ends, Tau sneaked ahead 13-11 after 17. The next two ends tipped the scales in Tau's favour, counts of three and four setting her firmly on the road to victory.

United Kingdom players have not been able to exert any authority on the championships, and tomorrow's pairs final features Australia and Canada, with

New Zealand and Wales contesting the bronze medal off.

England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, however, are eager to redress the balance in the men's fours, and are all pressing for a place in the final on Friday, while England, Scotland and Wales remain in contention in section A of the women's fours.

The proceedings at Pakuranga were overshadowed by the death of a 10-week-old boy, who was found to have stopped breathing on arrival at the venue after travelling to Auckland from Whangerei with his mother.

The boy's grandmother, was Millie Khan, the New Zealand singles representative.

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*Britain feels better for it.*

## US team is at new frontiers

Miami (AP) — The United States will play their first match against East Germany on March 28 in the Jahn Stadium, in East Berlin, the United States Football Federation (USFF) said yesterday.

The United States added their eighth warm-up game for the World Cup finals when they agreed to play Iceland.

"Although we had other possibilities for opponents, the opportunity to play in East Berlin was one we could not pass up, given the recent developments in Eastern Europe," Sunil Gulati, the chairman of the USFF's international games committee, said.

March 28 will be a busy day for European football. Seven other matches are also scheduled: The Netherlands play in the Soviet Union, Brazil play England at Wembley, Austria are in Spain, Wales in the Republic of Ireland and France in Hungary.

The United States have not played since the 1-0 victory at Trinidad and Tobago on November 19 which sent them through to the finals, and open their 1990 schedule tomorrow in the Maribor Cup of Miami.

The United States play Costa Rica tomorrow and either Uruguay or Colombia on Sunday. They then play at Bermuda on February 13 and come home to play the Soviet Union on February 24 at Stamford, Connecticut.

Gary Halpin, Ireland's replacement prop for Saturday's rugby union international against Scotland in Dublin, has been forced to drop out of the squad with food poisoning.

## World Cup safety problems

Rome (AFP) — Fears about the safety of the grounds on which Italy will stage the World Cup finals emerged yesterday. Work on some of them is drastically behind schedule because of bureaucratic hold-ups and political wrangling.

Organizing committees from many of the 12 centres made their fears public after the deaths of nine site workers at the grounds.

Five workmen have been killed at Palermo, two at

Genoa and one each at Turin and Bologna since last September.

Part of the stadium collapsed at Palermo, killing five, most of the other deaths have been caused by falls and the collapse of cranes.

Work is behind schedule at Rome, Naples and Palermo,

which has forced contractors to speed up operations. Organizing committees said this was often leading to

precarious conditions on the construction sites.

The Italian grounds are now just two months from the final inspection by FIFA, football's international governing body.

The mayor of Rome, Franco Carraro, a former Italian Olympic Committee chairman and minister for sport, said stricter checks would have to be carried out and some slowing of the work ordered to avoid new accidents.

## Reversal by ACO on Le Mans race

By John Blundstone

The Automobile Club de L'Orne (ACO) have been forced to reverse yesterday's announcement that the Le Mans 24 hours sports car race would take place on June 16 and 17. Yesterday, the ACO lost its long running battle with FISA, which announced the race's cancellation after the organizing club had failed to apologize publicly for what the governing body refers to as "a campaign of defamation" against it.

This was a reference to the ACO's contention that FISA was more interested in the race's commercial rights than with the safety aspects and that the issue of the seven-kilometre Mulsanne straight, which had been introduced by FISA at a late stage in the dispute, was a smokescreen aimed at hiding the real issue.

Last year, the Le Mans race was removed from the world championship calendar after the failure of the ACO and FISA to reach agreement over television and other commercial rights.

Earlier this week the ACO announced that two chicanes were to be inserted into the Mulsanne straight to meet the recently announced FISA ruling that no circuit would be sanctioned for international racing which had a straight more than two kilometres long.

This, it was thought, had

saved the world's most significant endurance race, subject to the FISA circuit inspection team being satisfied that the necessary work had been put in hand. However, in yesterday's statement, FISA described an announcement by the ACO on Tuesday, that the race would take place, as false and that no serious guarantees had been given by the ACO that the necessary chicanes would be built.

There has been a history of conflict between the two bodies, and their failure to resolve their differences, whether they revolve around safety, money or merely egos, is another serious stain on the already tarnished image of motor racing.

It is a particularly bitter blow for those teams for whom the annual appearance at Le Mans and the promotional value they derive from it, is central to their support of endurance racing and the justification for the huge financial investment involved in their total racing programme.

Malcolm Elliott, the Sheffield cyclist who won the points classification in the Tour of Spain last year, begins his second season with the Teka Ruta del Sol six-day race, starting in Marbella on Tuesday.

## Hadlee to return

Wellington (AFP) — Richard Hadlee, the New Zealand cricketer, has been added to the party to play India in the first Test match in Christchurch starting tomorrow. Hadlee, who is four wickets short of becoming the first bowler to take 400 Test wickets, has been recovering from surgery on an Achilles tendon.

Hadlee, who replaces the injured Willie Watson, has been included despite his comeback consisting of just three limited-overs club games.

The United States play

Costa Rica tomorrow and either Uruguay or Colombia on Sunday. They then play at

Bermuda on February 13 and

come home to play the Soviet Union on February 24 at Stamford, Connecticut.

Gary Halpin, Ireland's replacement prop for Saturday's

rugby union international against Scotland in Dublin,

has been forced to drop out of the squad with food poison-

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Silvino Francisco, the South African snooker player who has been helping police with their inquiries into alleged betting irregularities over matches, has been told that he will not be interviewed again until early March.

## Interview date

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Notice to quit

Oldham rugby league club,

has served notice to quit on

the town's greyhound sta-

dium. Oldham greyhounds

rent the land off the rugby

club on a 20-year lease which

expires in August.

Hadlee back in business

Backing up

Benson and Hedges is to

sponsor a snooker tournament

for players outside the top 16

from January next year.

Halpin out

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